

MARVEL®



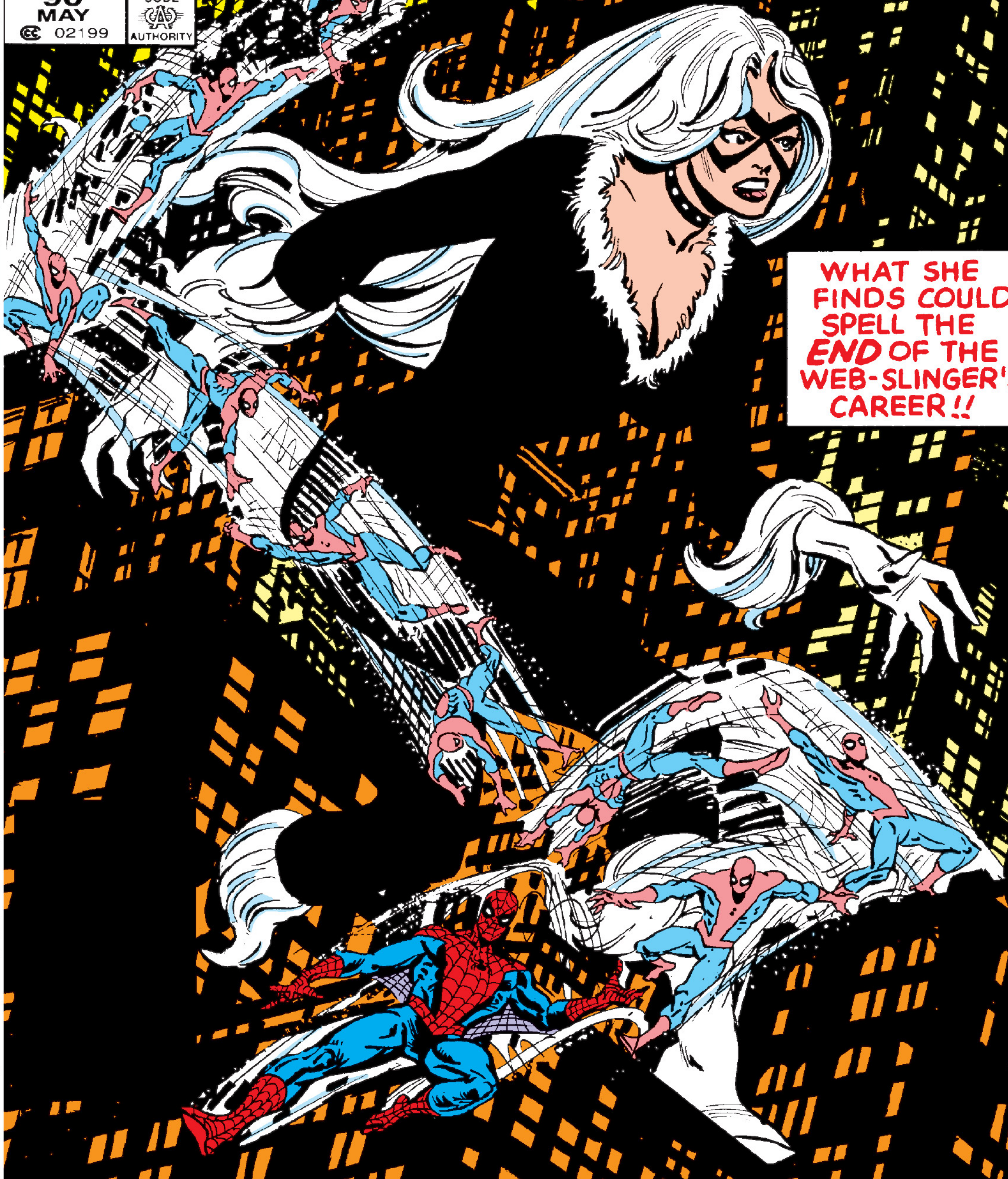
60¢
90
MAY
© 02199

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

SHE'S THE **BLACK CAT**.
SHE'S SEARCHING FOR
SPIDER-MAN...

WHAT SHE
FINDS COULD
SPELL THE
END OF THE
WEB-SLINGER'S
CAREER!!



THIS IS FELICIA HARDY, BETTER KNOWN-- PERHAPS EVEN TO HERSELF-- AS THE BLACK CAT.

USUALLY SHE FEELS AT HOME IN THE NIGHT, SAFE IN THE DARKNESS, SECURE IN THE MOON'S SILVER LIGHT.

BUT NOT TONIGHT.



TONIGHT SHE FEELS A CHILL THAT IS MORE THAN THE COOL EVENING AIR, IT IS THE STIRRING OF TERROR.

SHE FLEES THE MOON'S HARSH GLARE, FLEES THAT BLOATED ORB WHICH TONIGHT, OF ALL NIGHTS, SEEMS TO TAKE UPON ITSELF THE ASPECT OF... THE KINGPIN.

TONIGHT, SHE IS AFRAID.

WHERE, OH WHERE HAS MY SPIDER-MAN GONE...?

PRESENTED BY: STAN LEE	WRITTEN AND PENCILED BY: AL MILGROM	FINISHES BY: JIM MOONEY	LETTERED BY: JOE ROSEN	COLORS BY: BOB SHAREN	EDITED BY: DANNY FINGEROTH	CHIEFED BY: JIM SHOOTER
---------------------------	--	----------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------

I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT! I NEVER SHOULD HAVE TRIED TO FIND A WAY TO GET SUPER-POWERS.

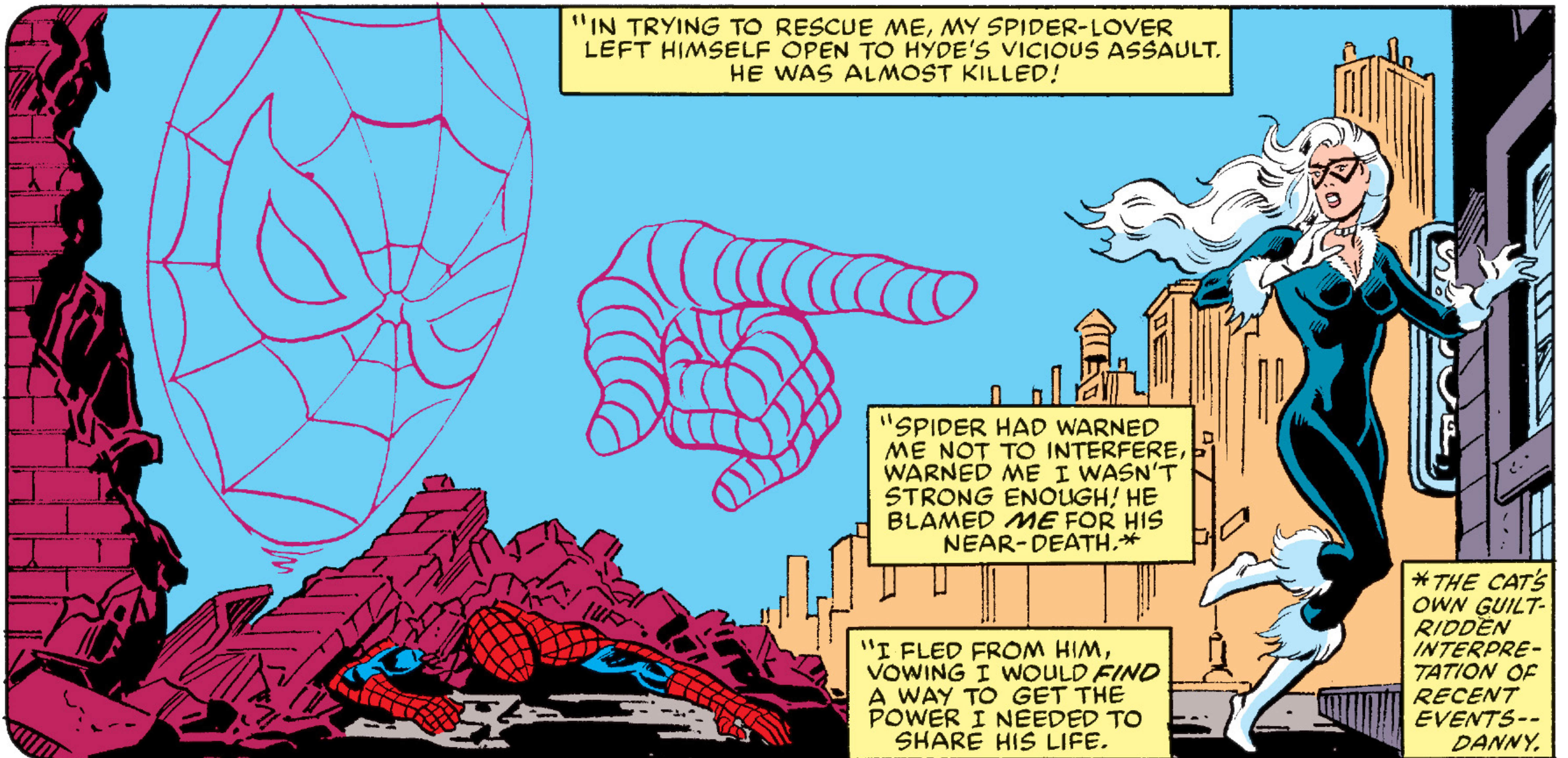
BUT I HAD TO DO IT-- FOR MY LOVER, MY SPIDER-MAN!

"OH, MY ACROBATIC ABILITY AND FIGHTING SKILLS WERE GOOD ENOUGH WHEN WE FOUGHT ORDINARY FOES--

"-- BUT I NEARLY GOT MYSELF KILLED WHEN I WENT UP AGAINST DOCTOR OCTOPUS AND THE OWL.

"WHEN I TRIED TO HELP SPIDER AGAINST THE HOBGOBLIN, I JUST GOT IN THE WAY!

"AND WHEN I TRIED TO BATTLE THE BESTIAL MR. HYDE, I BECAME MORE OF A LIABILITY THAN EVER.



"IN TRYING TO RESCUE ME, MY SPIDER-LOVER LEFT HIMSELF OPEN TO HYDE'S VICIOUS ASSAULT. HE WAS ALMOST KILLED!

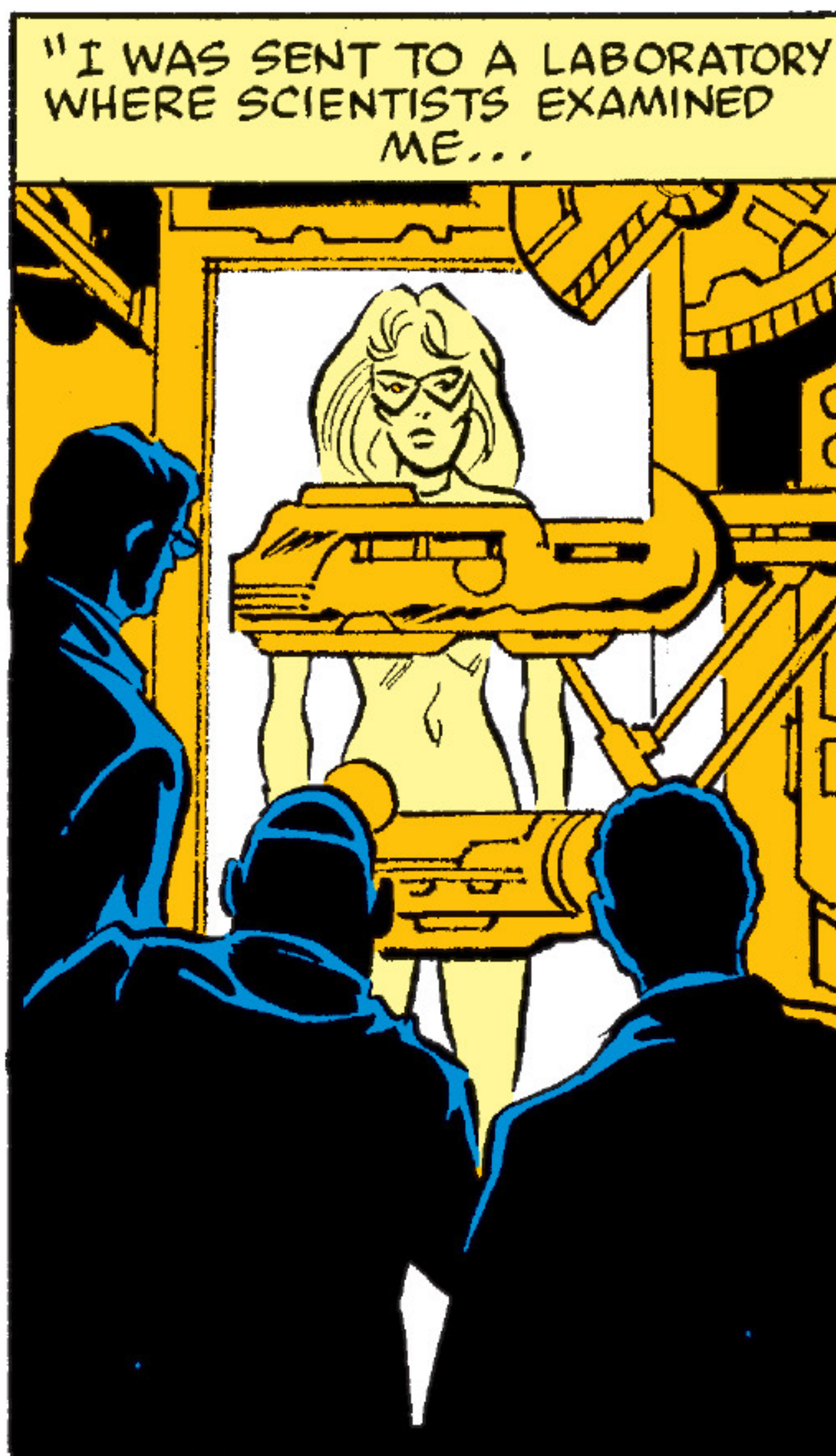
"SPIDER HAD WARNED ME NOT TO INTERFERE, WARNED ME I WASN'T STRONG ENOUGH! HE BLAMED ME FOR HIS NEAR-DEATH.*

"I FLED FROM HIM, VOWING I WOULD FIND A WAY TO GET THE POWER I NEEDED TO SHARE HIS LIFE.

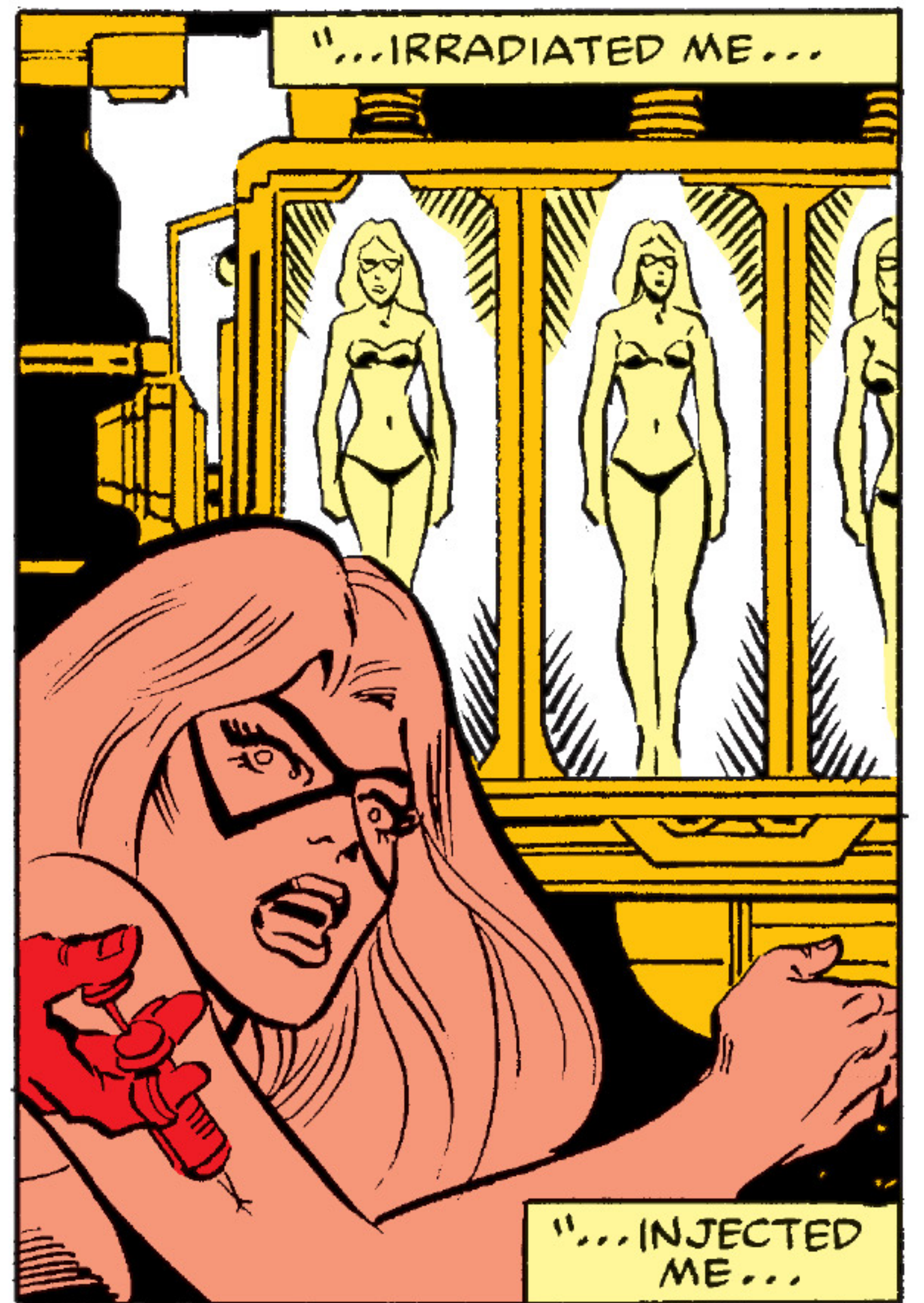
*THE CAT'S OWN GUILT-RIDDEN INTERPRETATION OF RECENT EVENTS--DANNY.



"BUT MY SEARCH SEEMED TO BE IN VAIN, UNTIL A DISGUISED VOICE FROM A MYSTERIOUS LIMOUSINE OFFERED TO HELP ME...IN RETURN FOR UN-NAMED SERVICES, I FIGURED I COULD DEAL WITH THAT LATER.

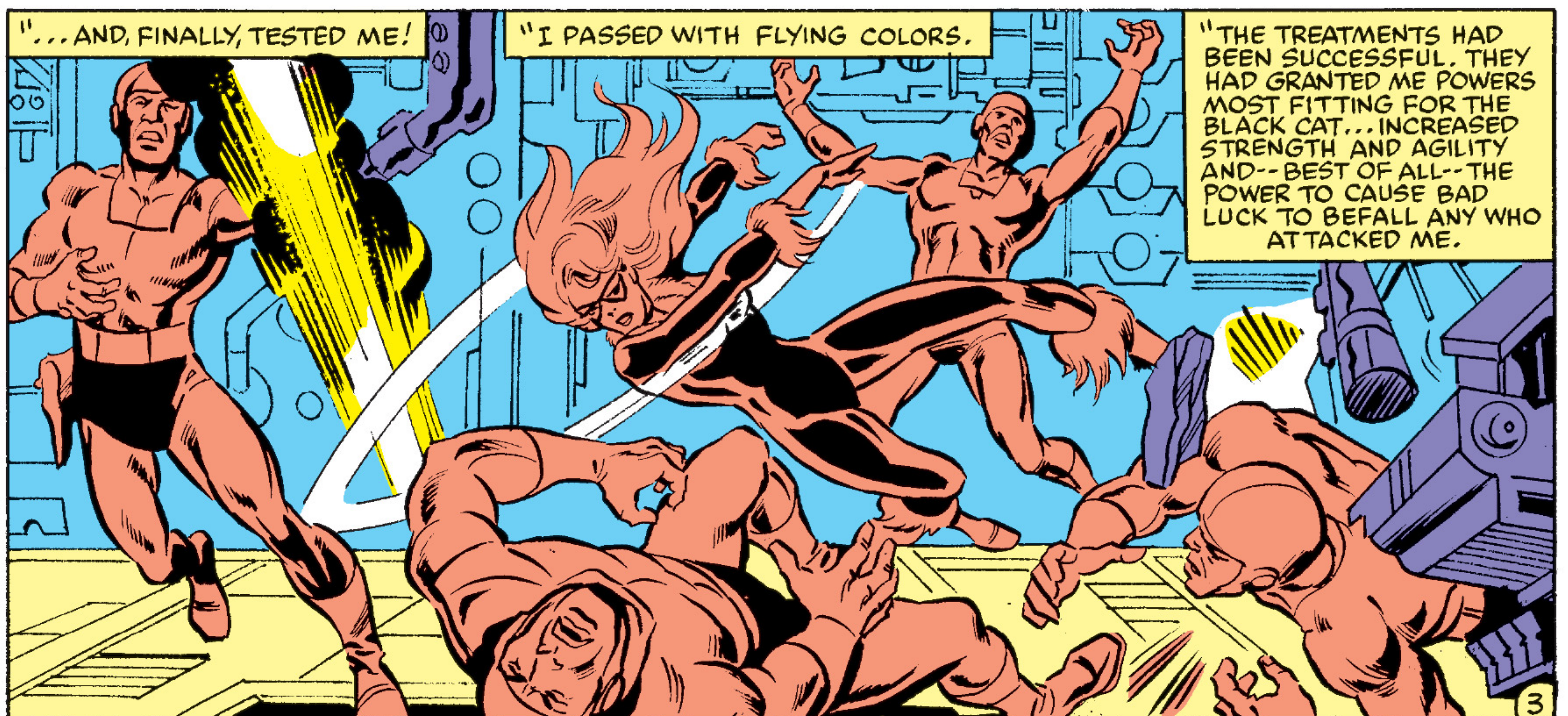


"I WAS SENT TO A LABORATORY WHERE SCIENTISTS EXAMINED ME...



"...IRRADIATED ME...

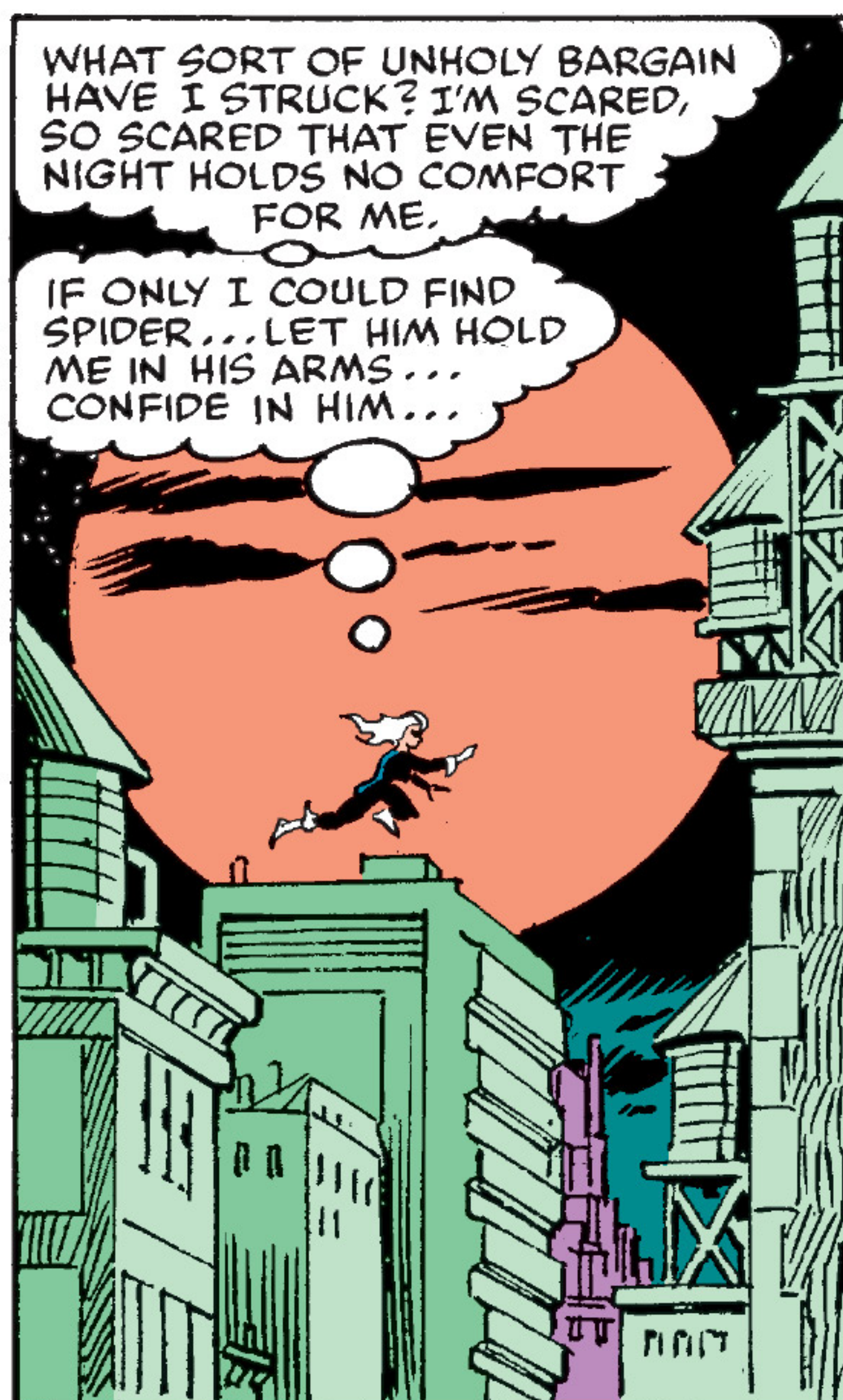
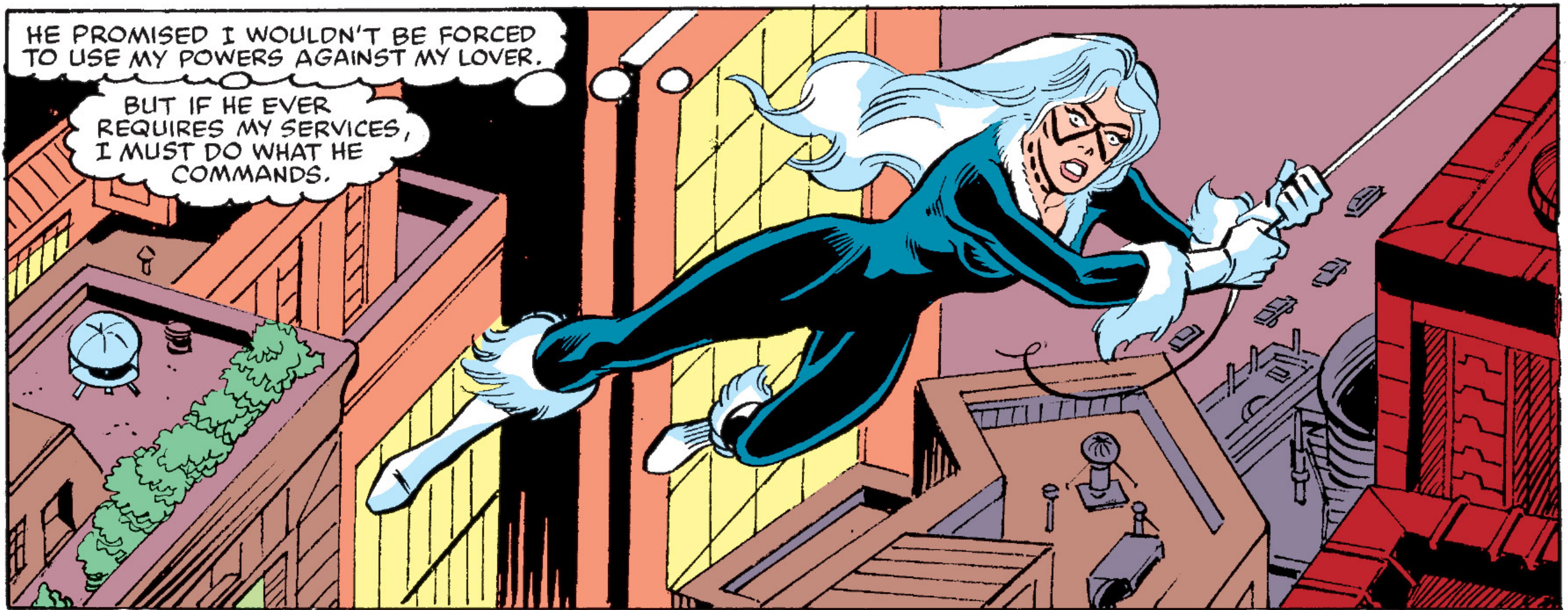
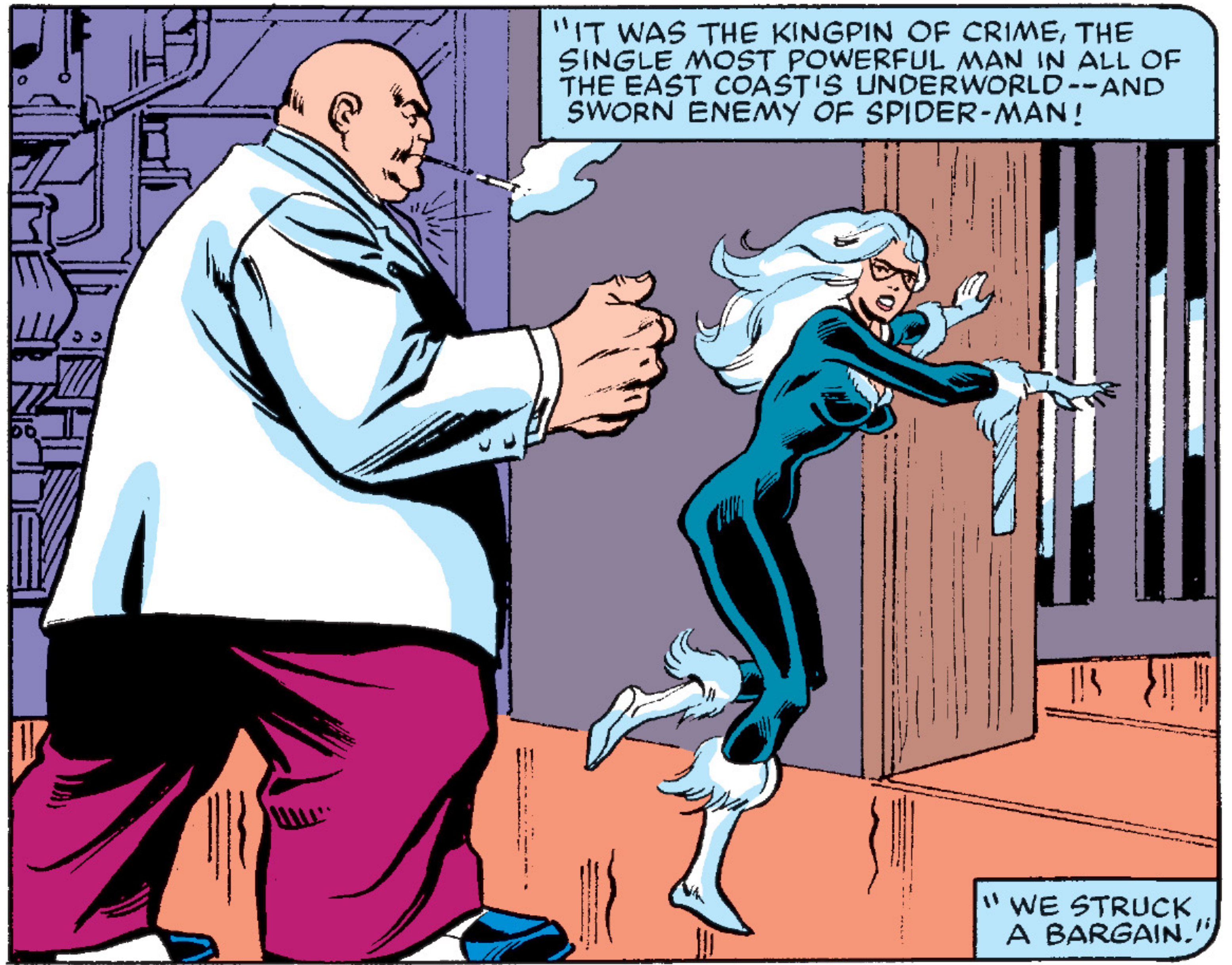
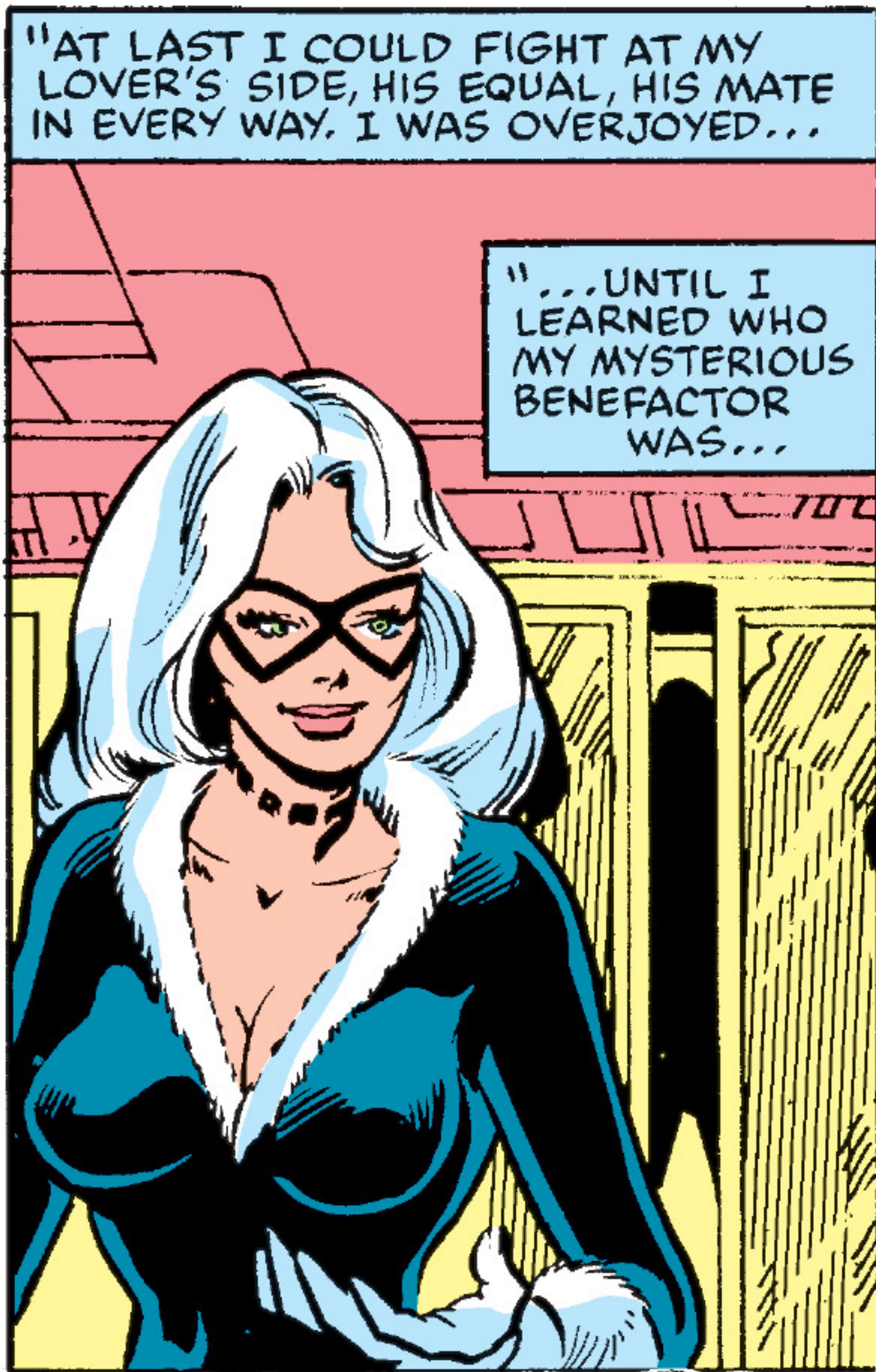
"...INJECTED ME...

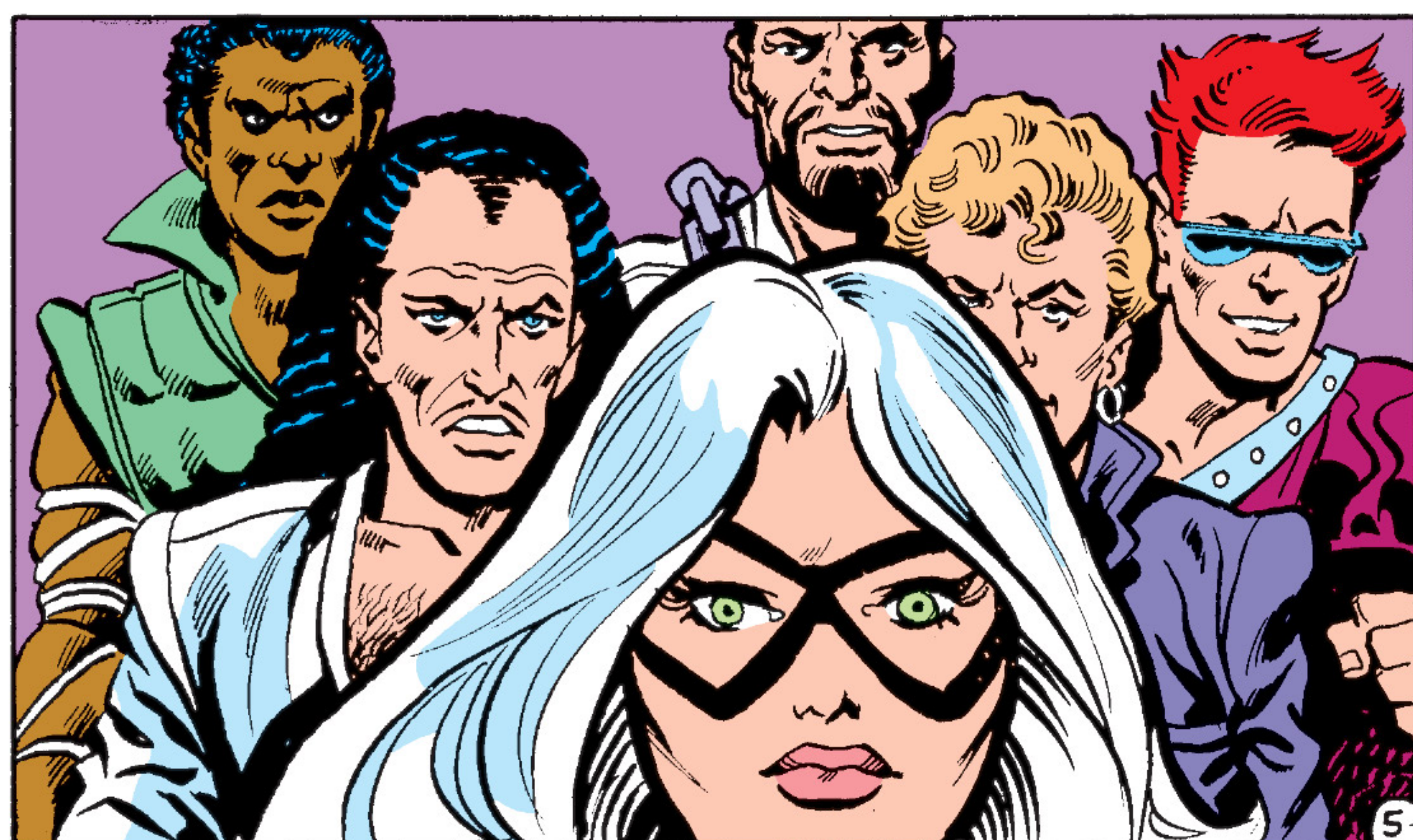
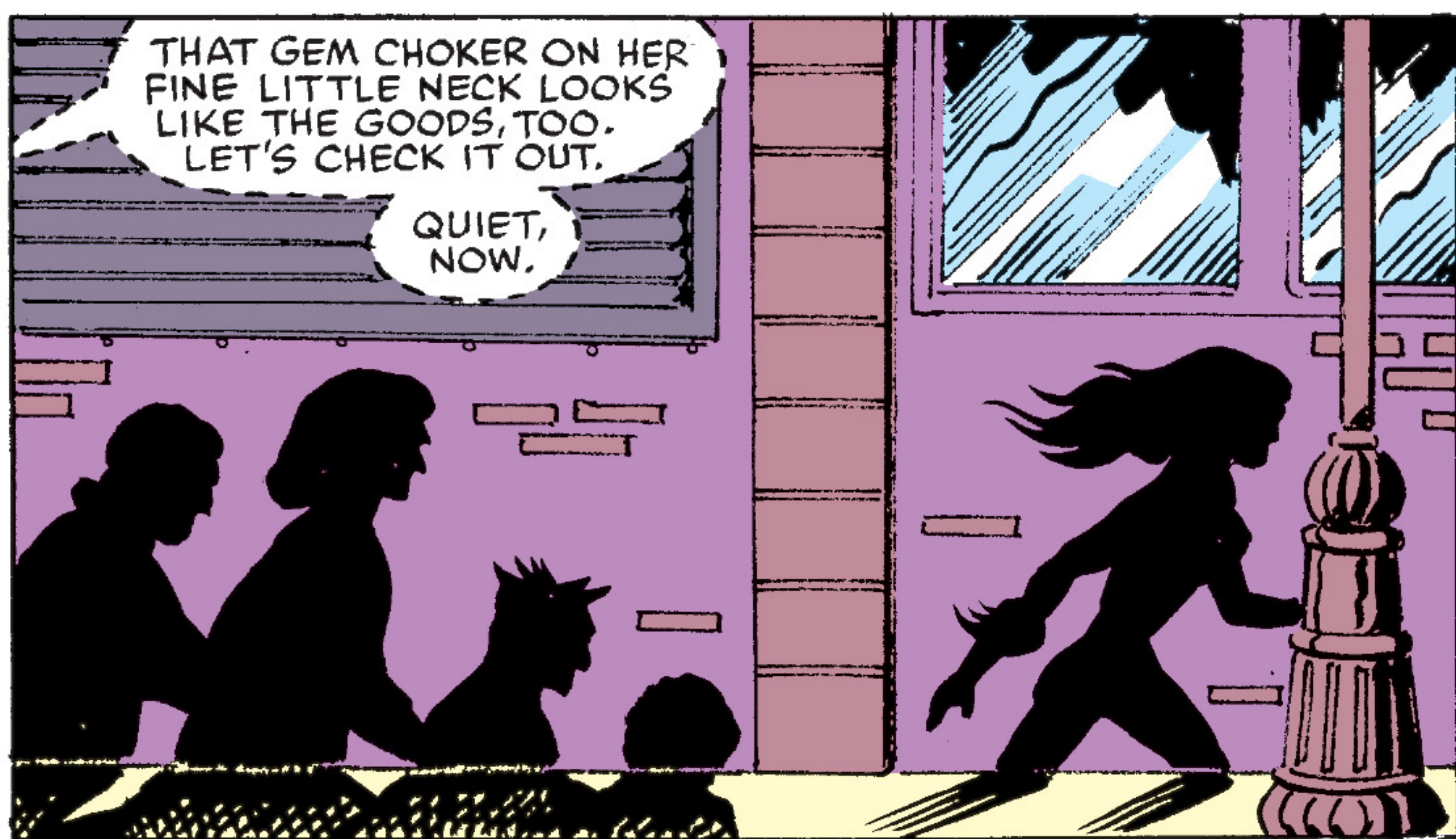
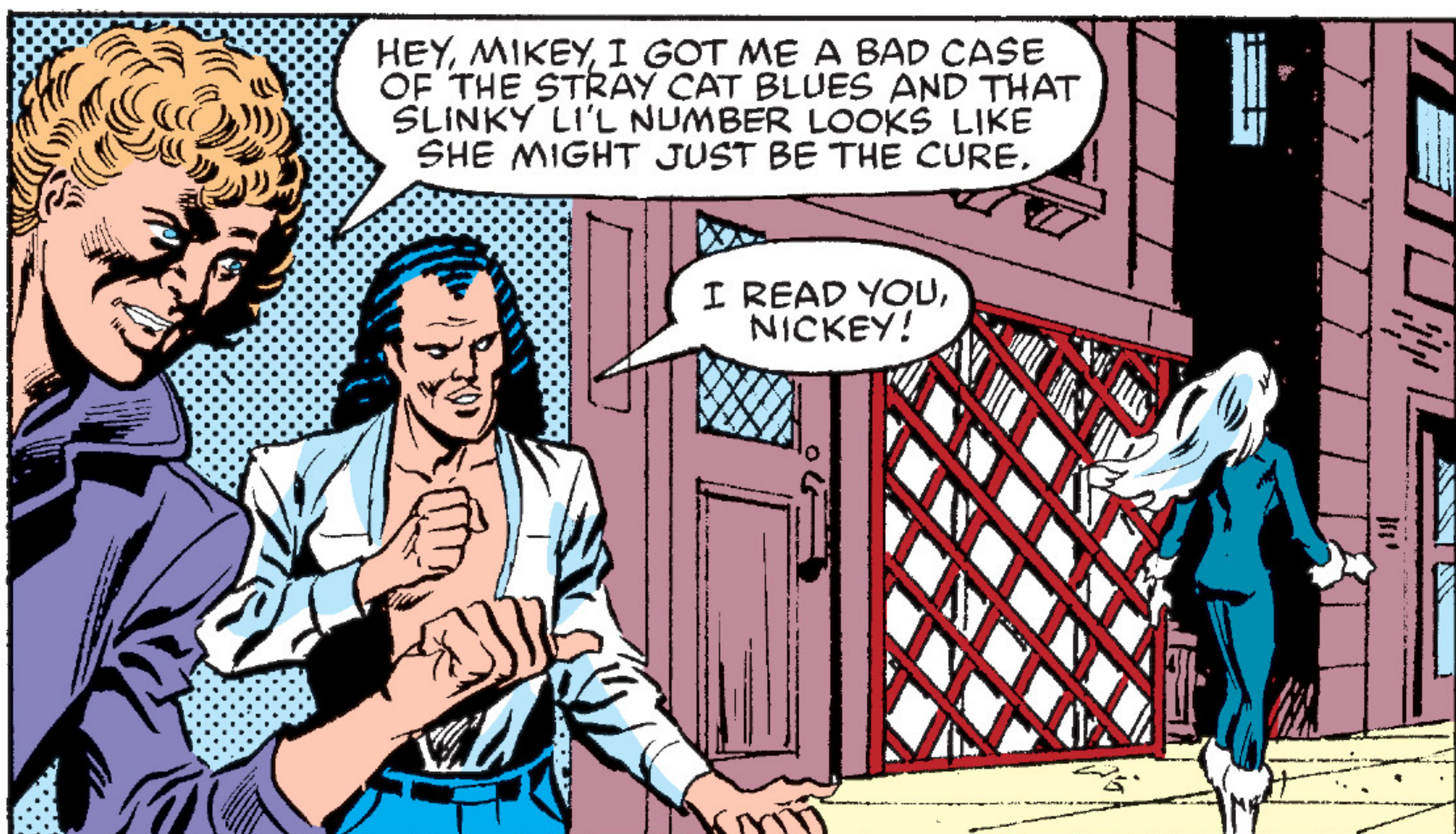
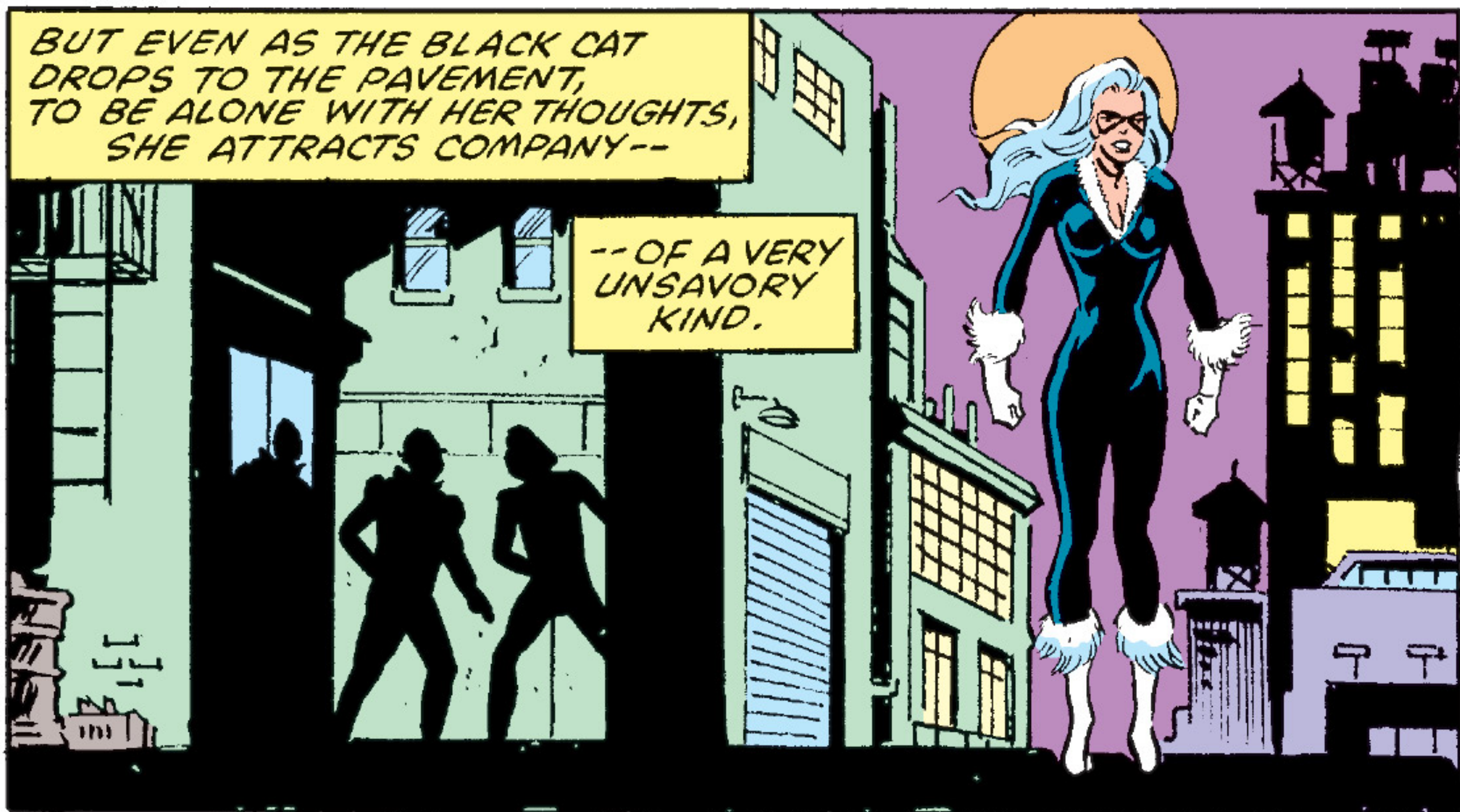


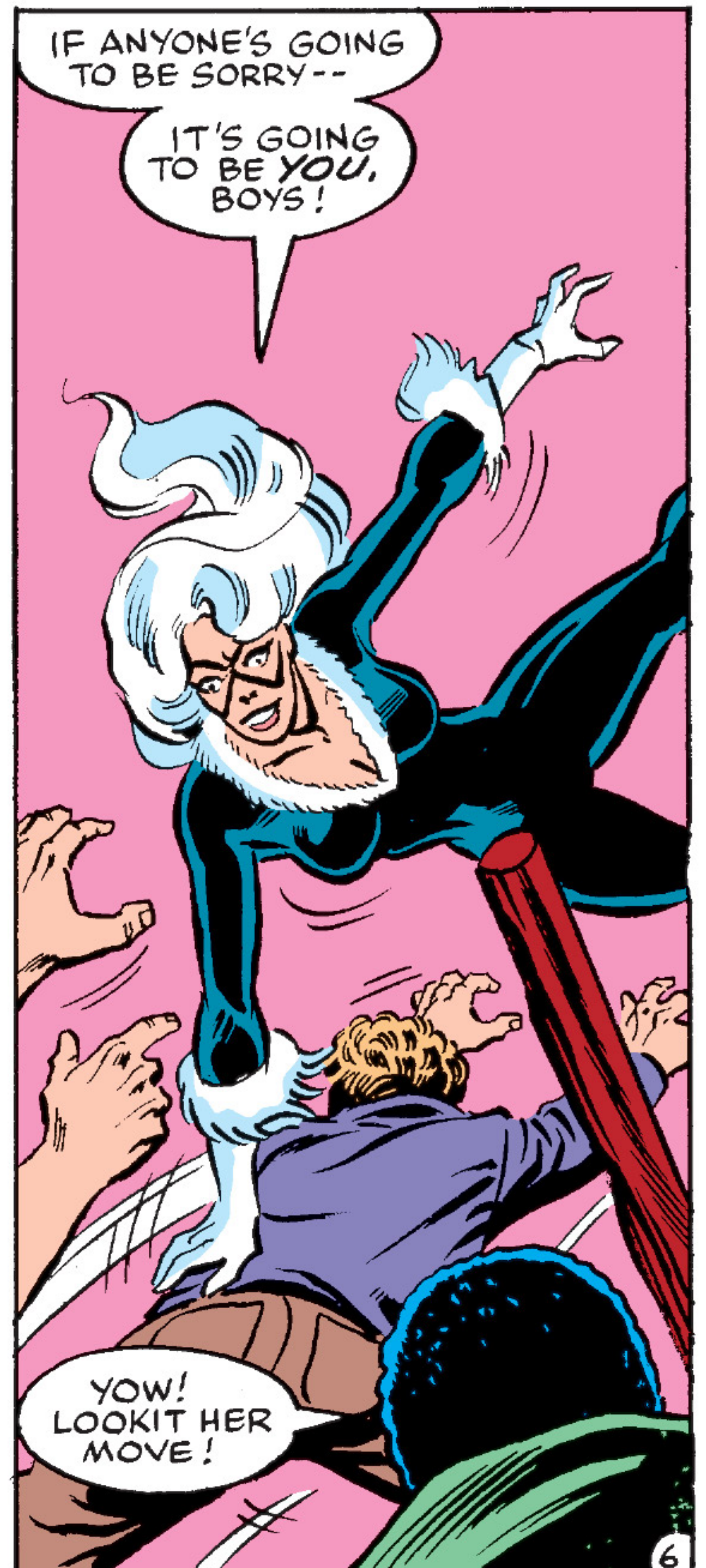
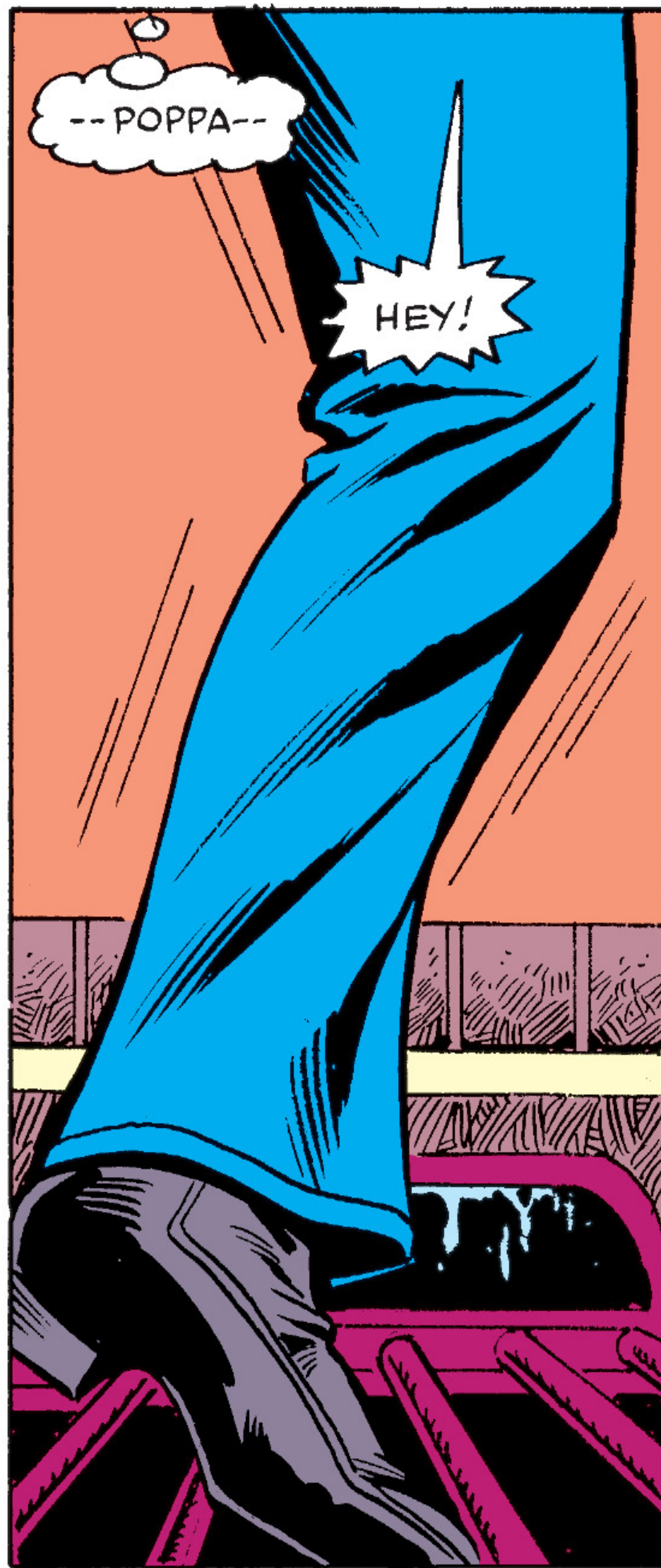
"...AND, FINALLY, TESTED ME!

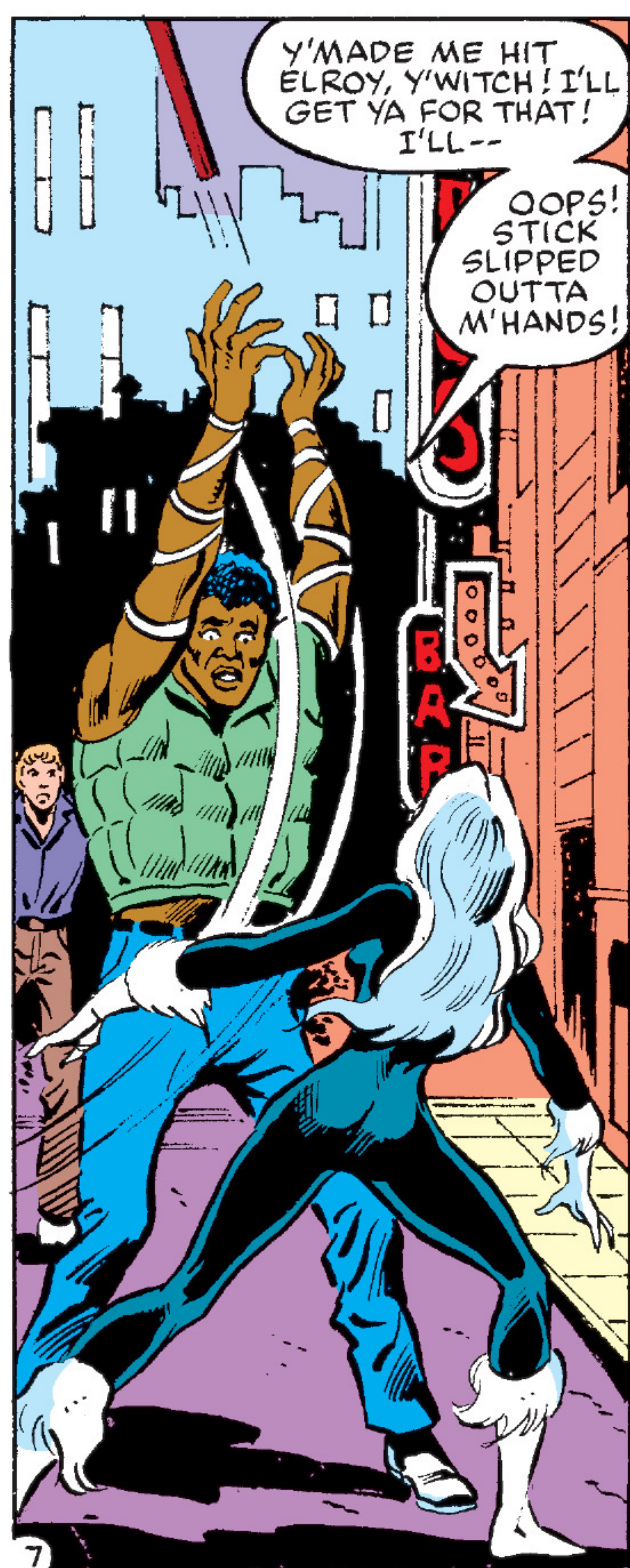
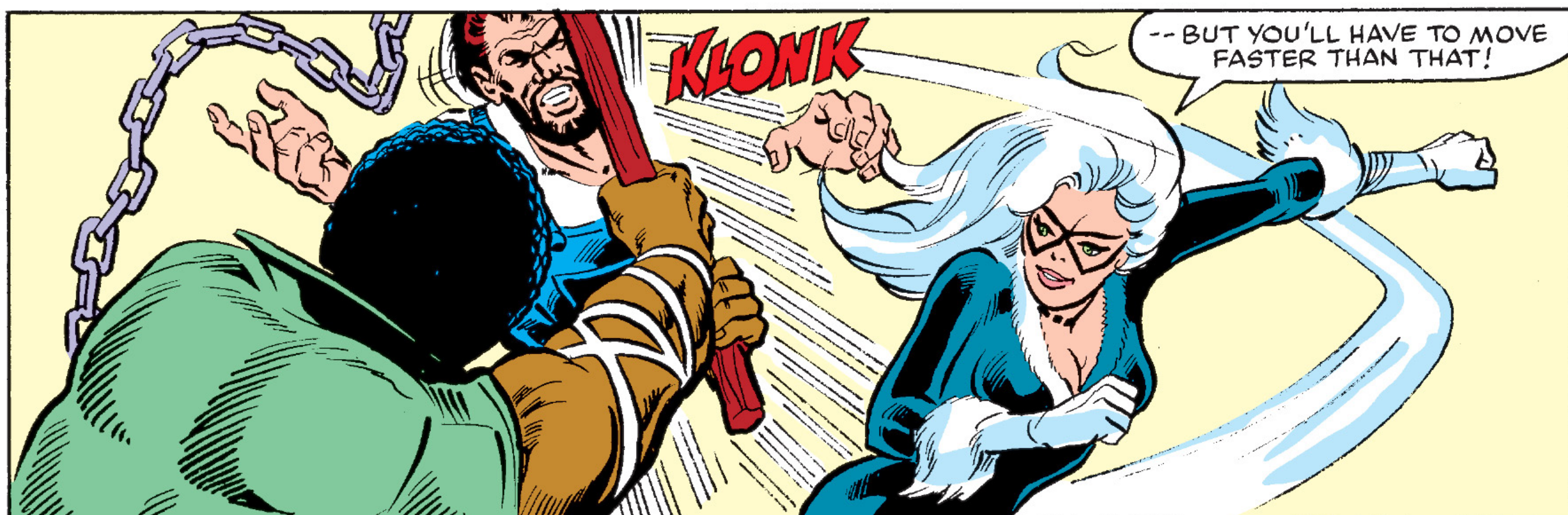
"I PASSED WITH FLYING COLORS.

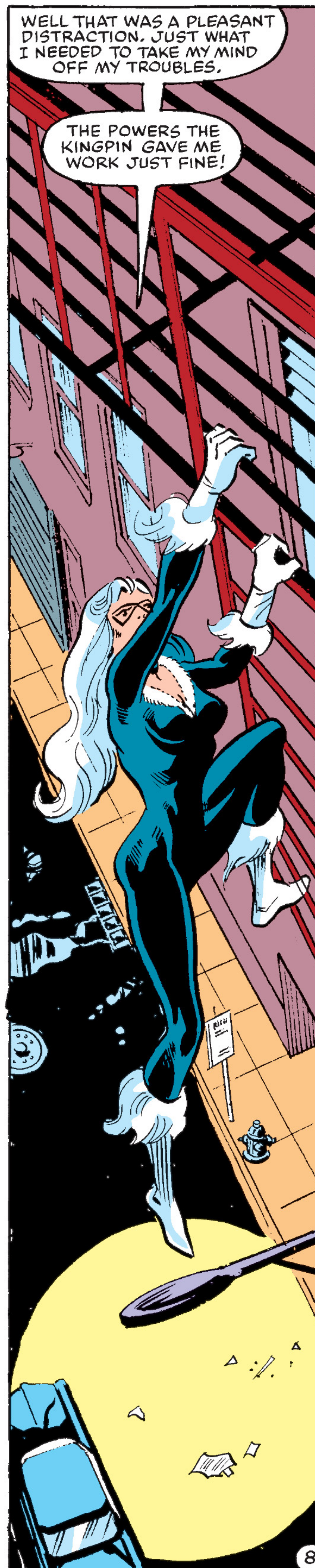
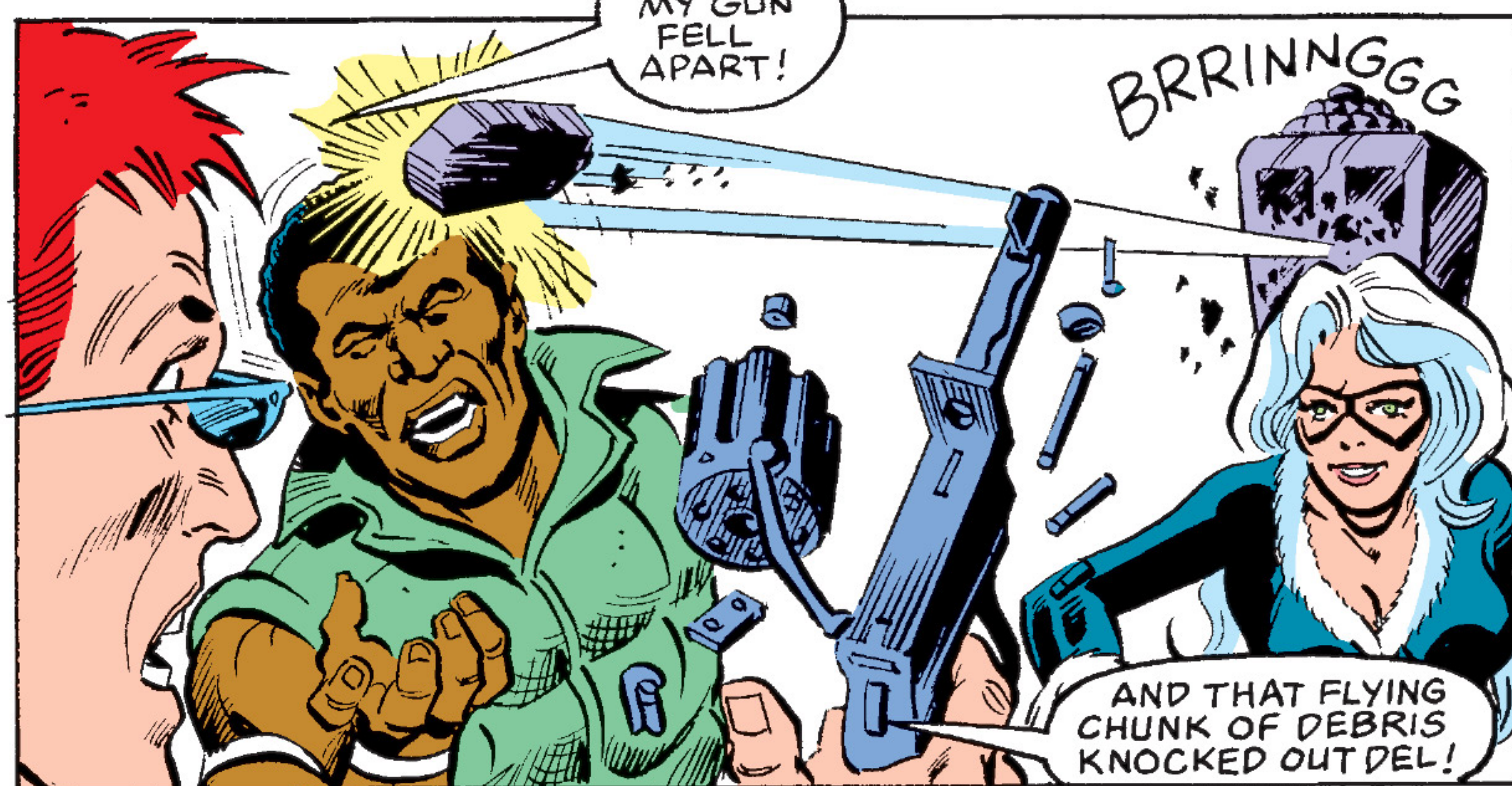
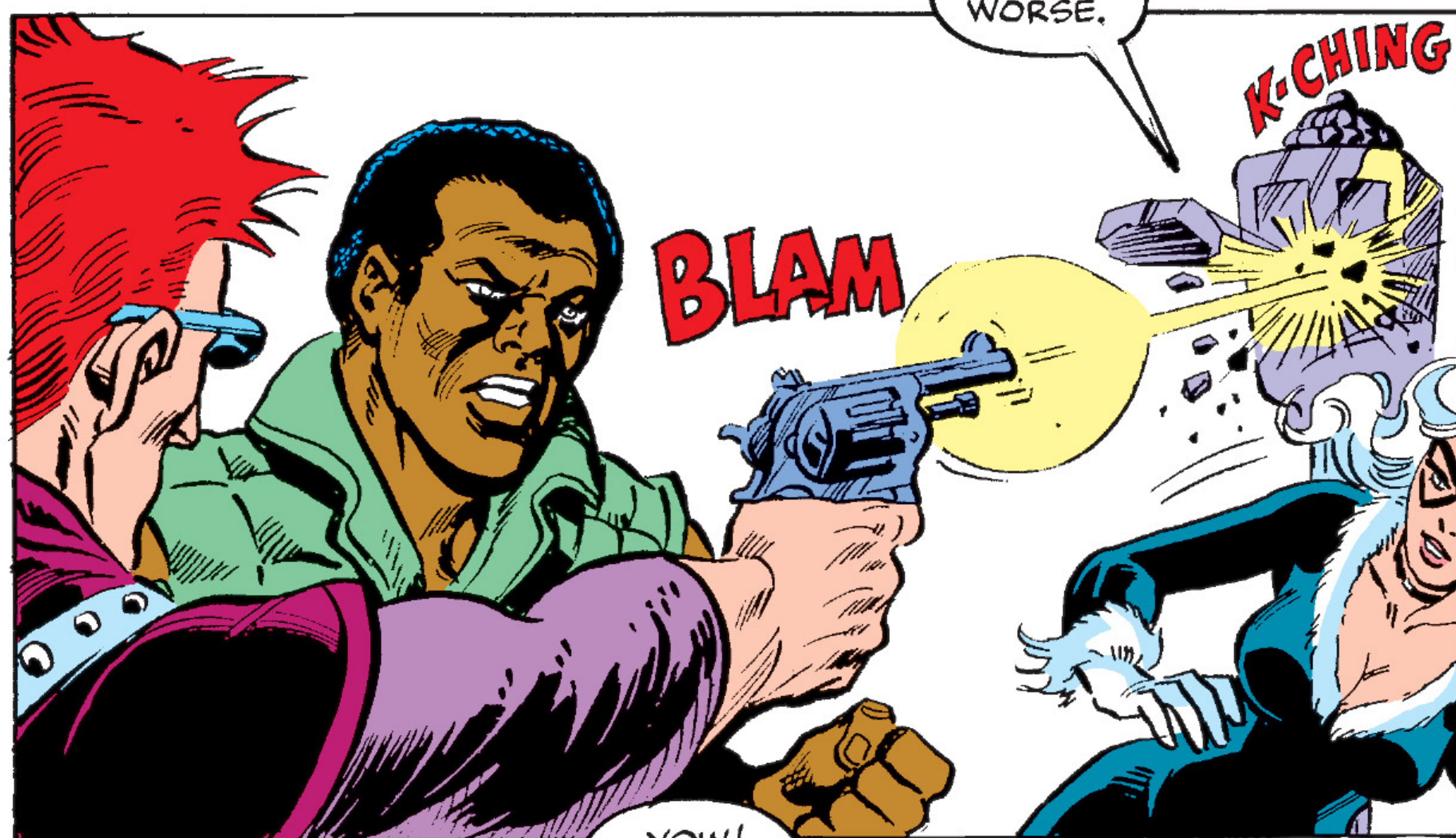
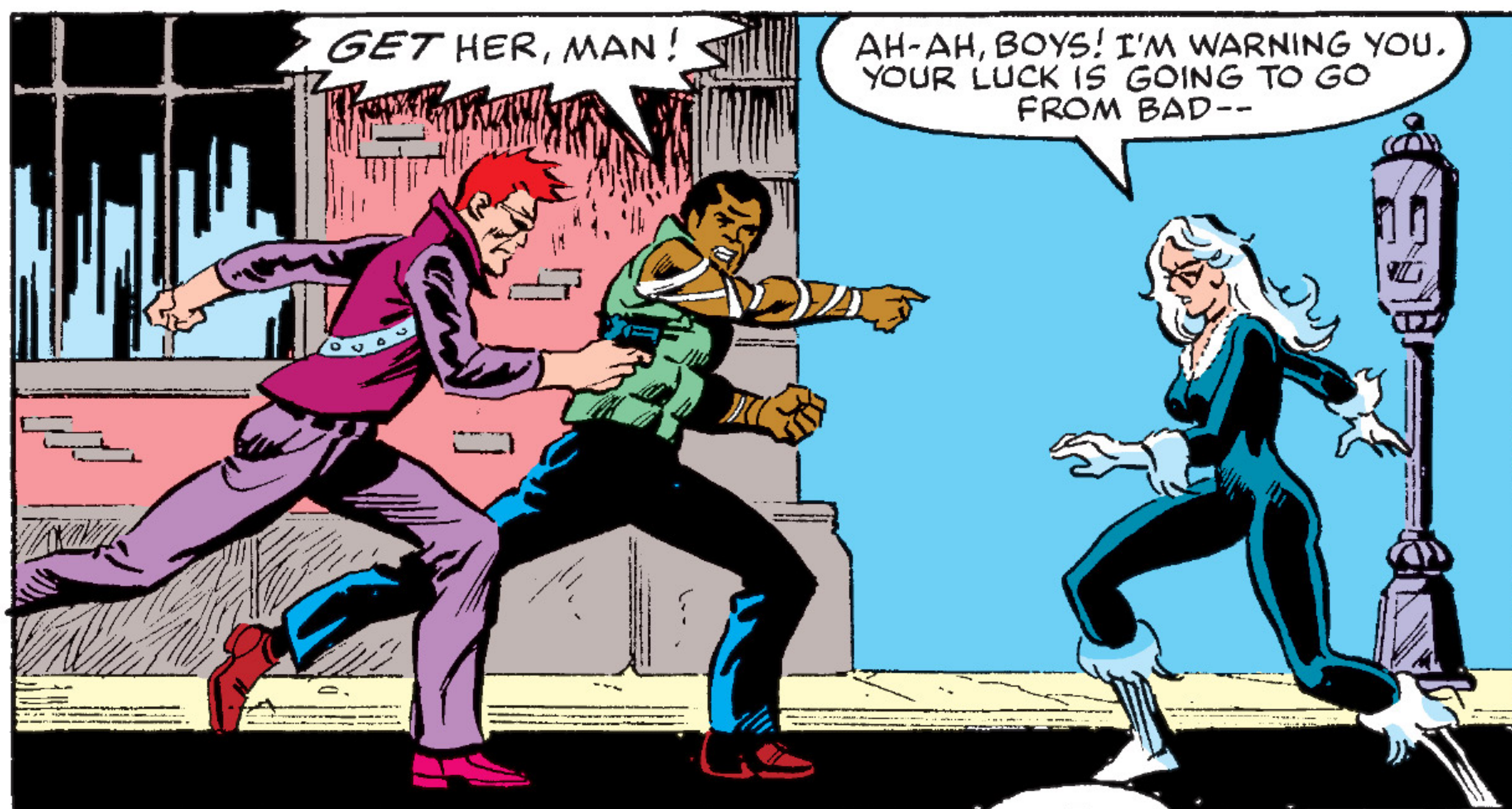
"THE TREATMENTS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THEY HAD GRANTED ME POWERS MOST FITTING FOR THE BLACK CAT...INCREASED STRENGTH AND AGILITY AND--BEST OF ALL--THE POWER TO CAUSE BAD LUCK TO BEFALL ANY WHO ATTACKED ME.











I'VE JUST GOT TO TELL SPIDER ABOUT MY NEW ABILITIES. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY HE'LL ALLOW ME TO SHARE IN HIS ADVENTURES--!

MAYBE... MAYBE I JUST WON'T TELL HIM HOW I GOT THE POWERS. I WON'T EVEN MENTION THE CONNECTION WITH THE KINGPIN.

THAT'S IT! SPIDER WON'T EVER HAVE TO KNOW WHERE THE POWERS CAME FROM. I'LL JUST TELL HIM THEY WERE LATENT ABILITIES I HAD ALL ALONG.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE KINGPIN CALLS IN HIS MARKER--NEEDS ME TO PERFORM SOME TASK FOR HIM AS MY PART OF THE BARGAIN?

I-I GUESS I JUST WON'T TELL SPIDER ABOUT IT. OR...

...OR MAYBE I JUST WON'T DO IT, PERIOD! I MEAN, IT SEEMS LIKE NO ONE CAN HARM ME, NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY.

MAYBE THE KINGPIN WENT TOO FAR--GAVE ME TOO MUCH POWER.

GAVE ME SO MUCH POWER THAT I NEEDN'T FEAR ANYONE... NOT EVEN HIM!

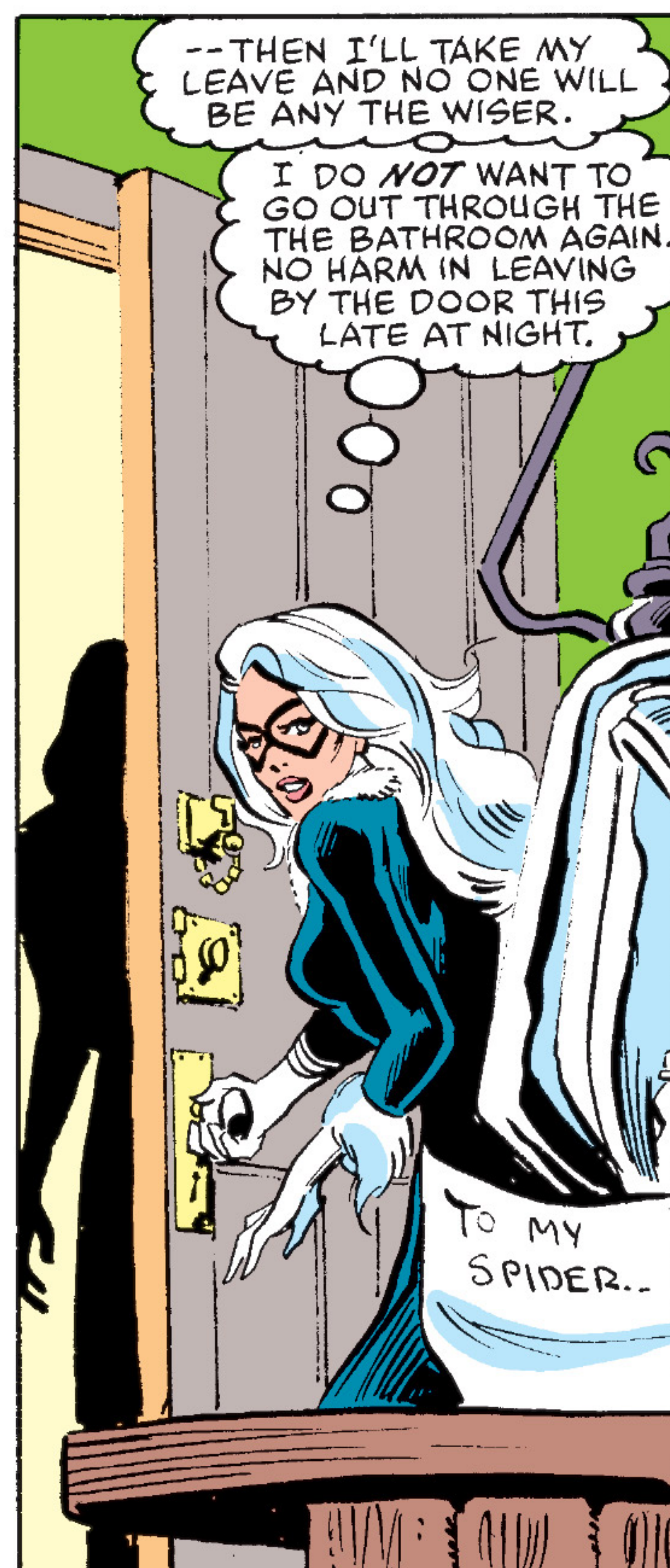
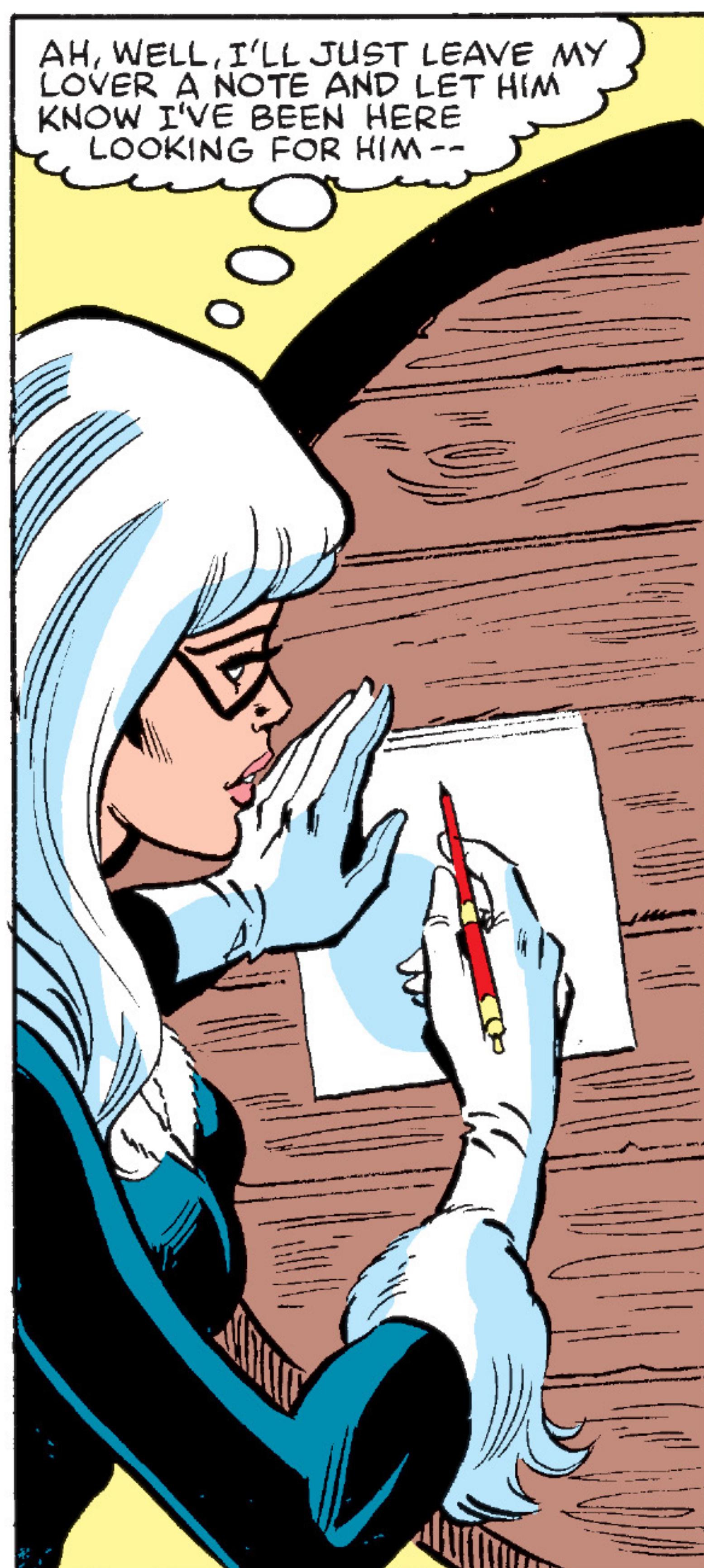
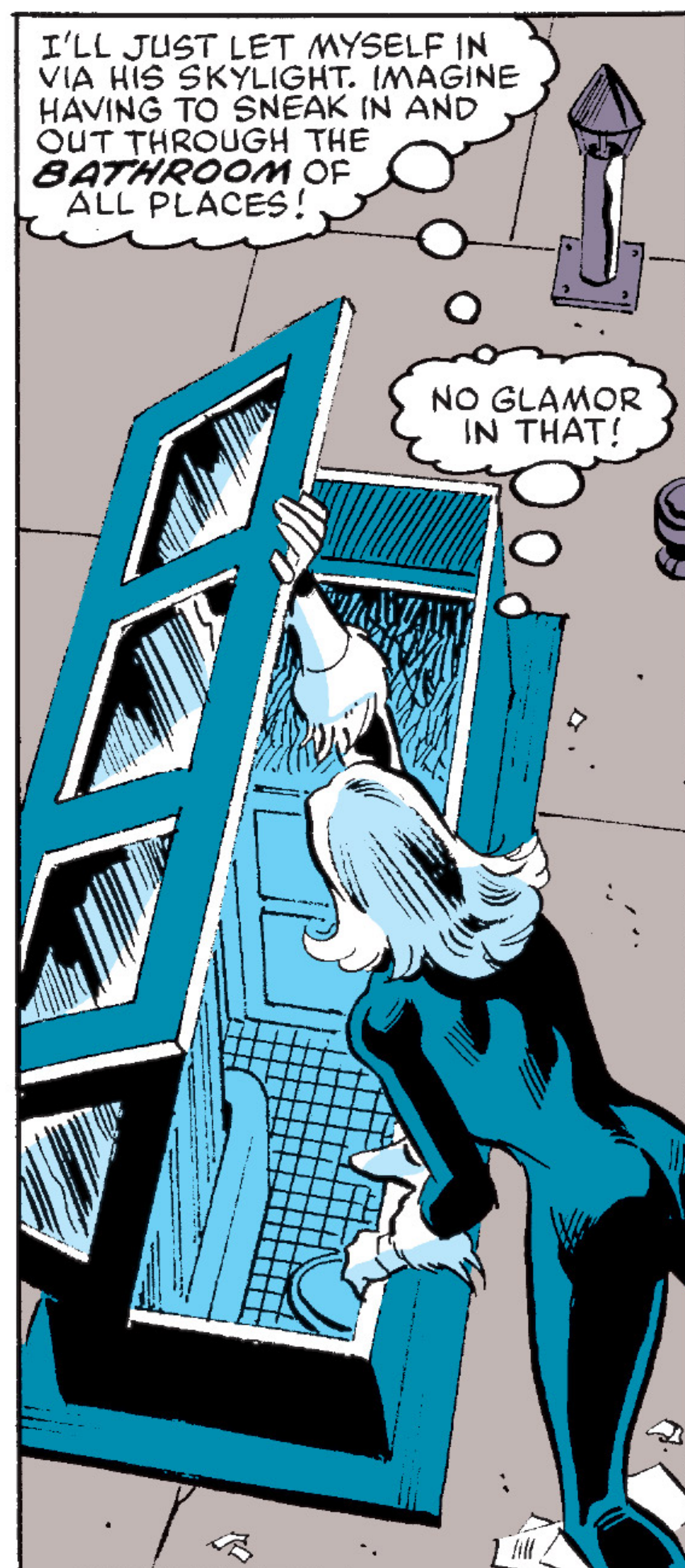
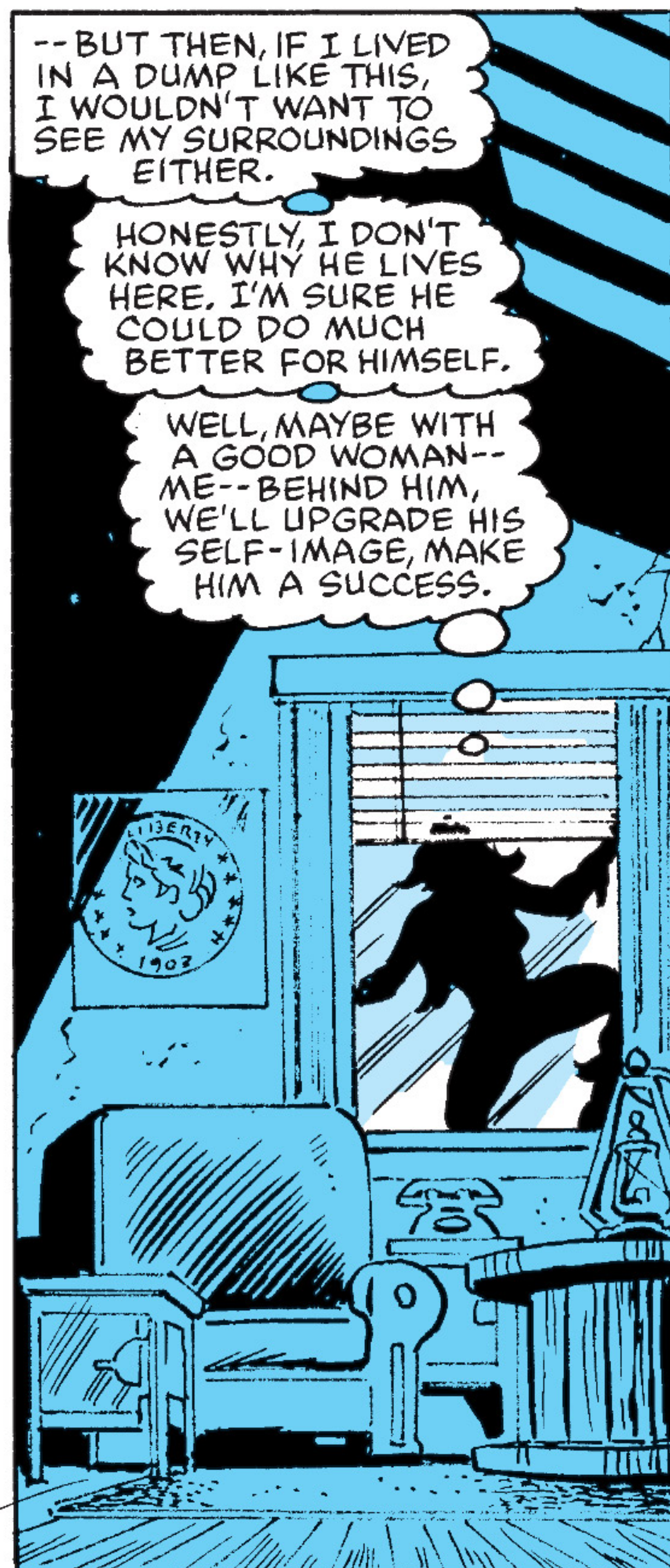
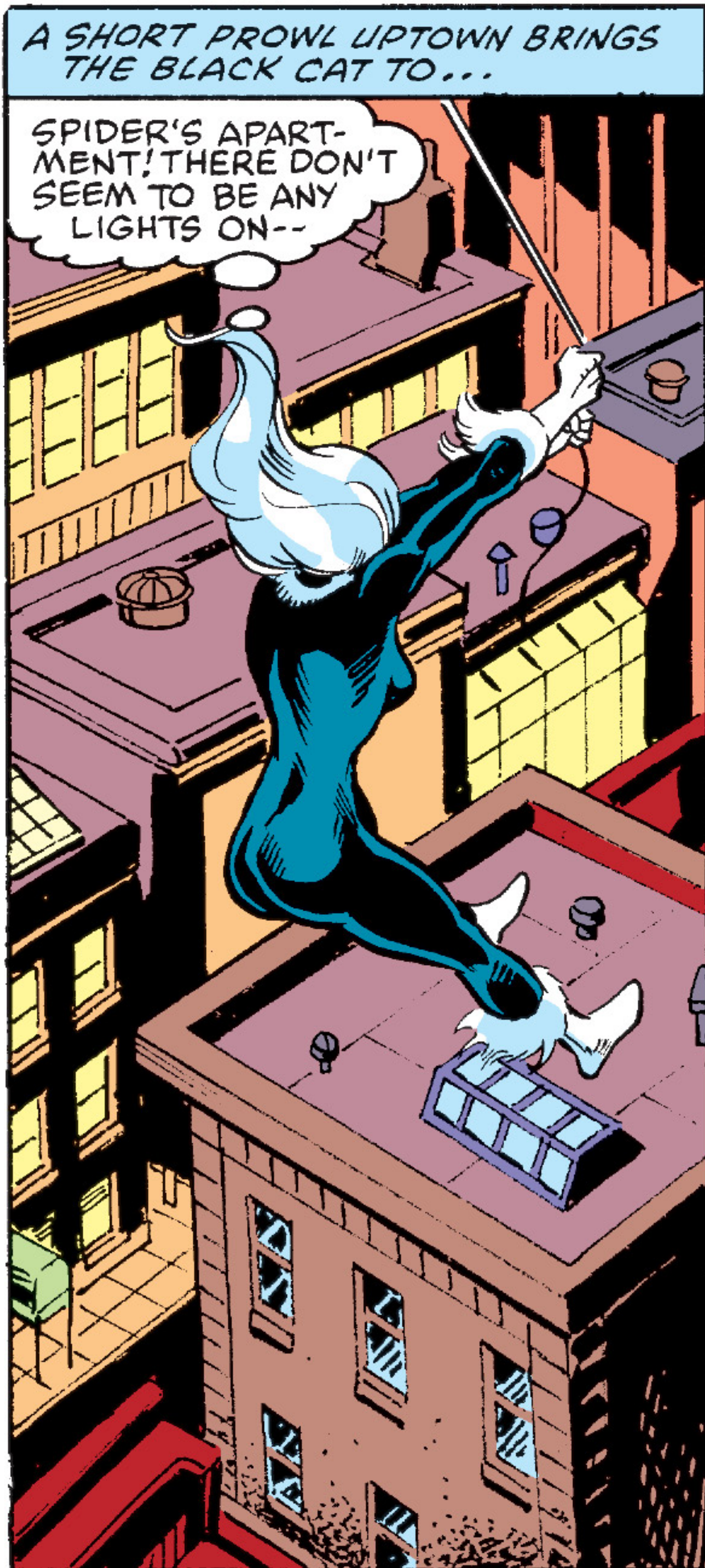
YEAH! HE'S NOT AS SMART AS HE THINKS! HECK, I STOLE THAT ACTIVATOR GIZMO OFF HIM THAT TIME WITHOUT EVEN BREATHING HARD!*

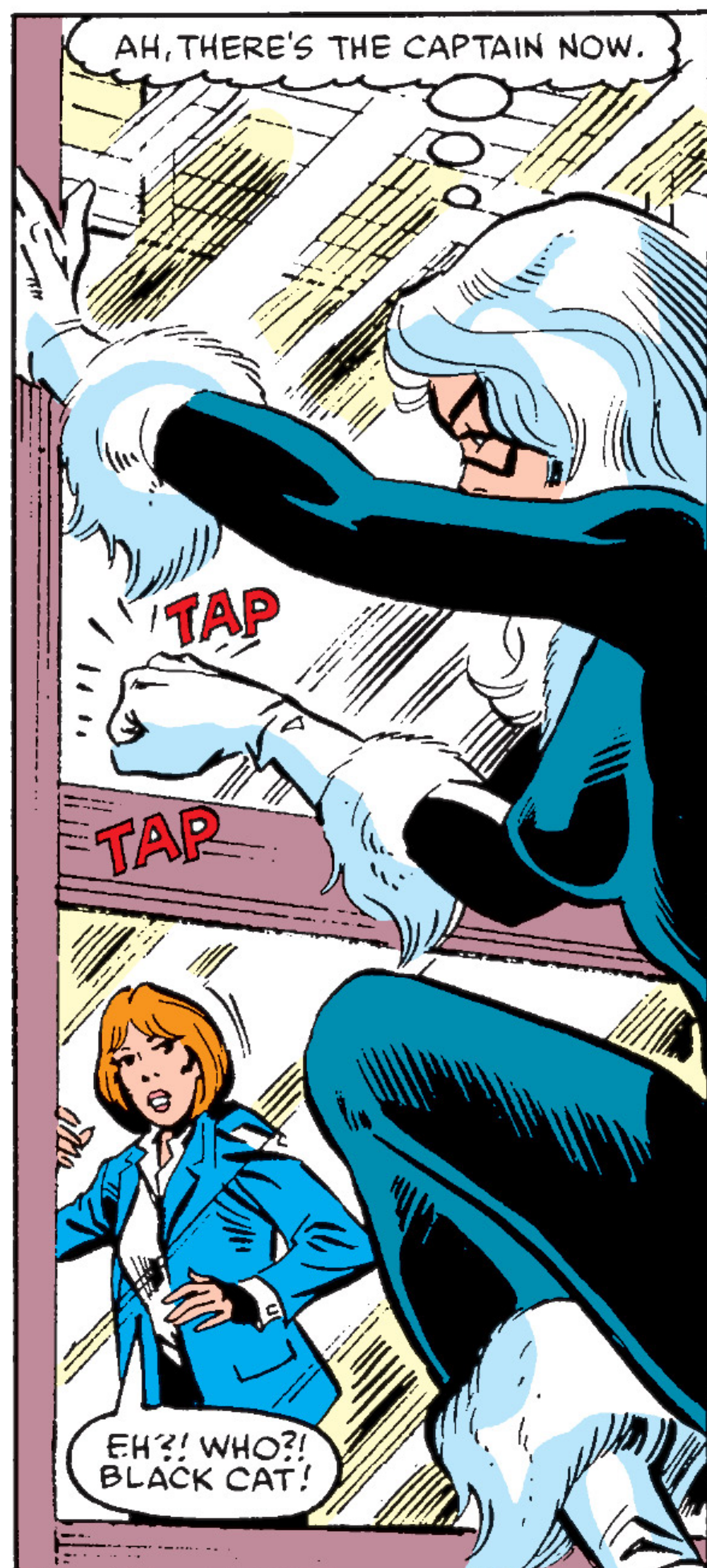
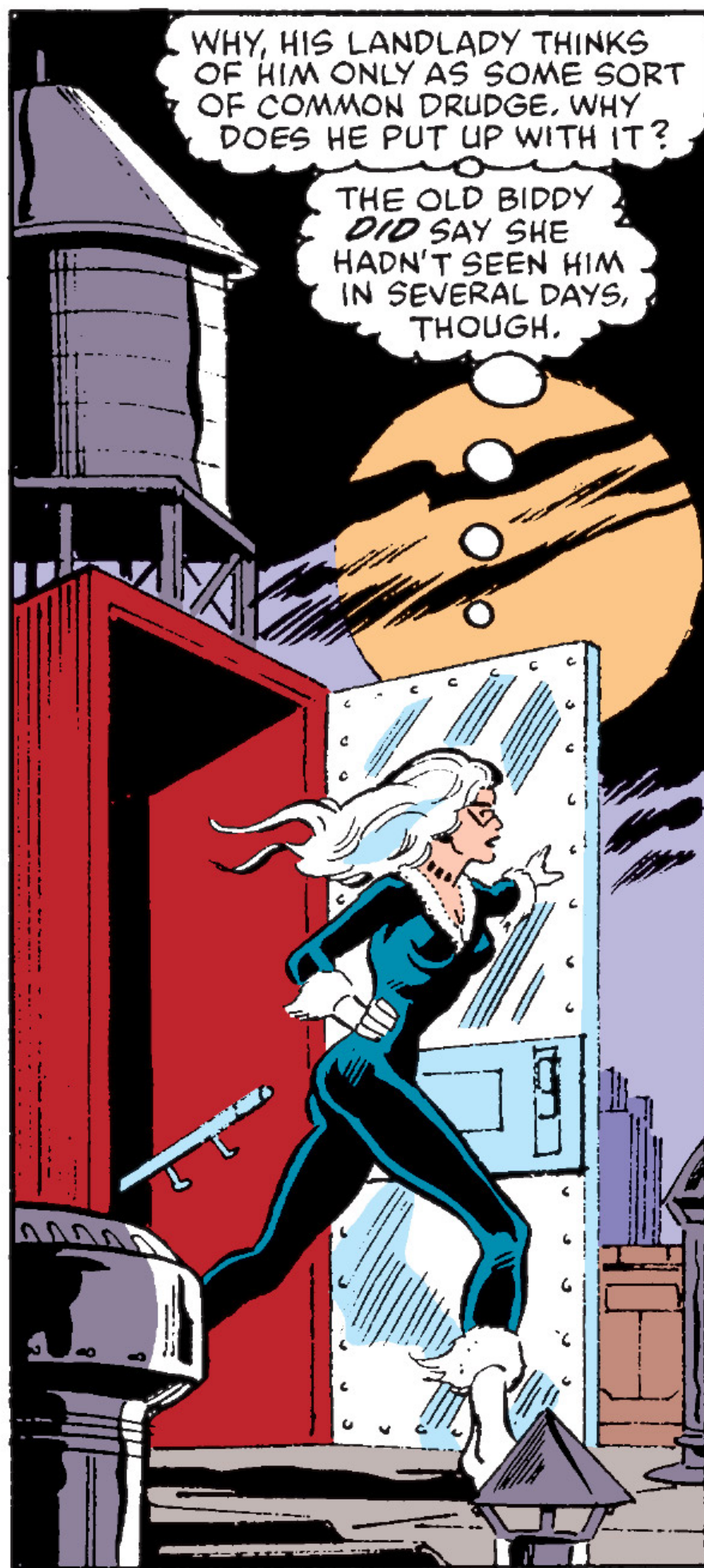
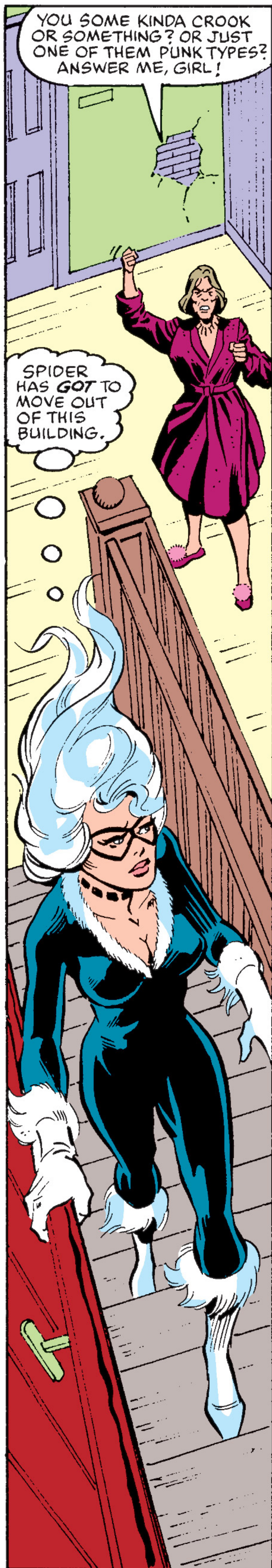
I'VE GOT TO FIND SPIDER AND TELL HIM--TELL HIM HE DOESN'T HAVE TO FEAR FOR HIS LOVER'S SAFETY EVER AGAIN!

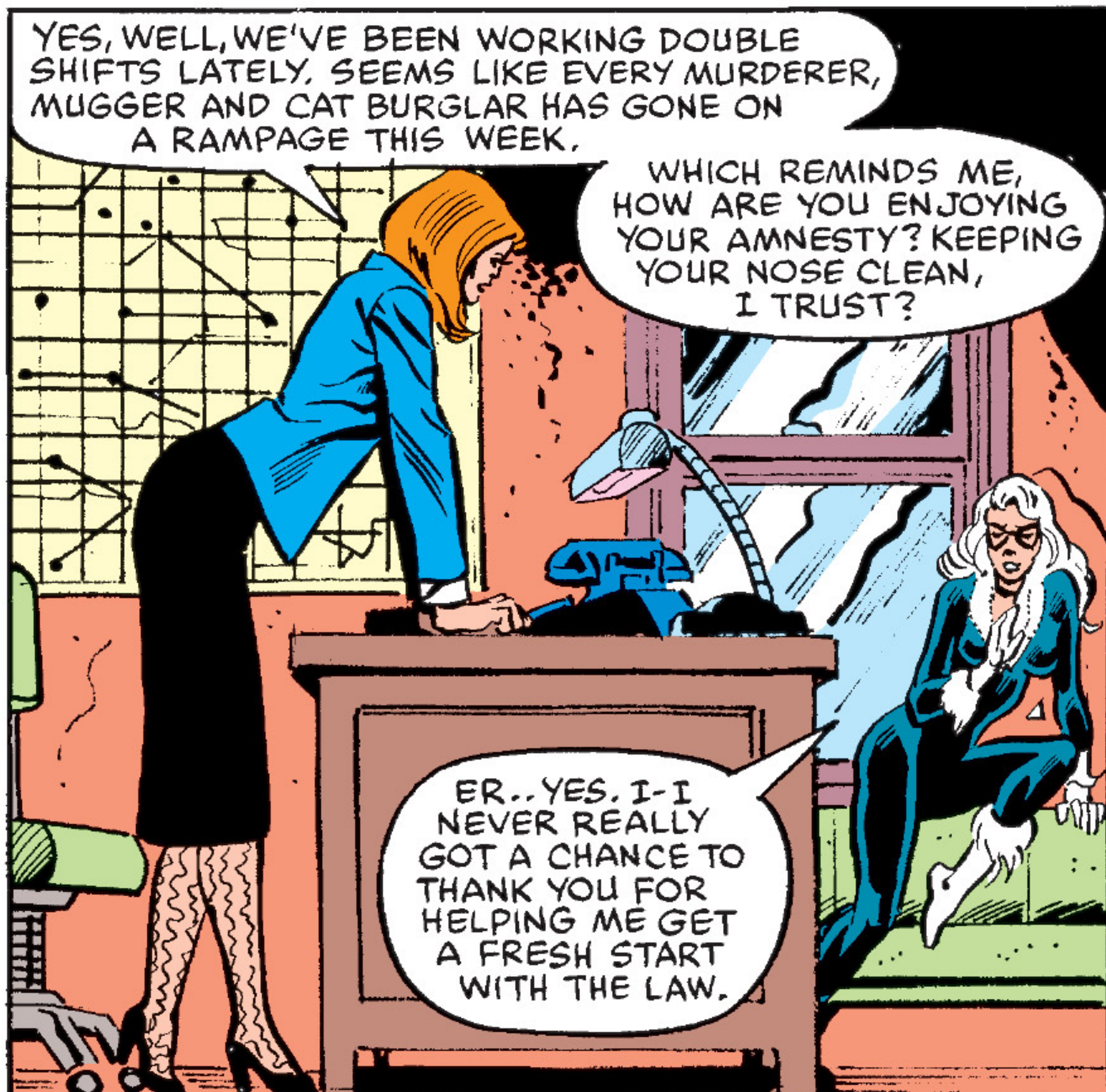
*SEE PETER PARKER #74 --DANNY.

THE TERROR IS GONE NOW, REPLACED BY THE LIGHT-HEARTED OPTIMISM OF A YOUNG WOMAN IN LOVE.

BUT STILL, THE COLD MOON GLARES.







YES, WELL, WE'VE BEEN WORKING DOUBLE SHIFTS LATELY. SEEMS LIKE EVERY MURDERER, MUGGER AND CAT BURGLAR HAS GONE ON A RAMPAGE THIS WEEK.

WHICH REMINDS ME, HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR AMNESTY? KEEPING YOUR NOSE CLEAN, I TRUST?

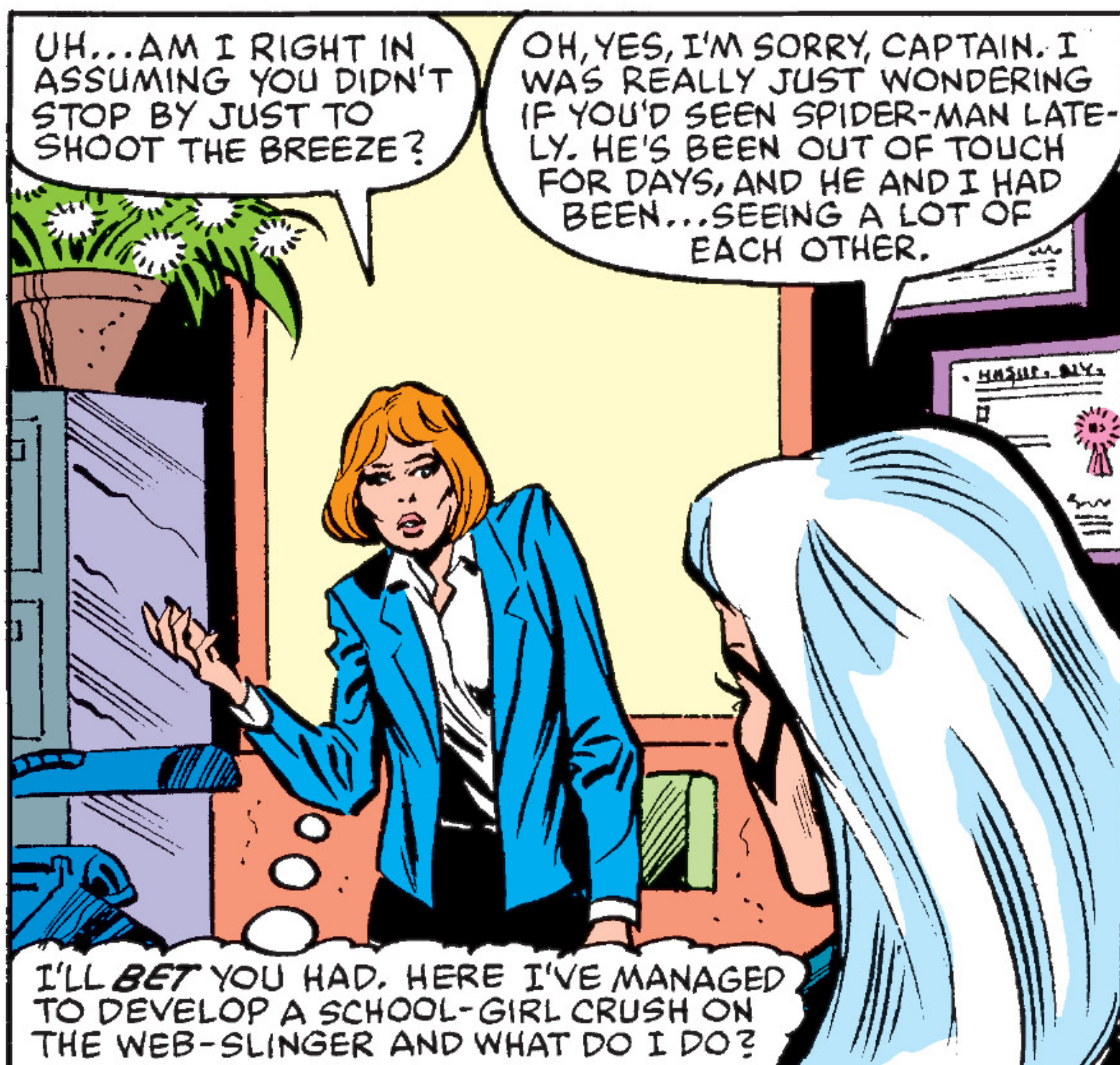
ER... YES. I-I NEVER REALLY GOT A CHANCE TO THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME GET A FRESH START WITH THE LAW.



IT'S OKAY, KID, FORGET IT. JUST DON'T STRAY FROM THE STRAIGHT-AND-NARROW.

GOSH, WHAT WOULD SHE THINK IF SHE KNEW I'VE BEEN ASSOCIATING WITH THE KINGPIN? I COULD LOSE MY AMNESTY-- GO BACK TO BEING A WANTED CRIMINAL.

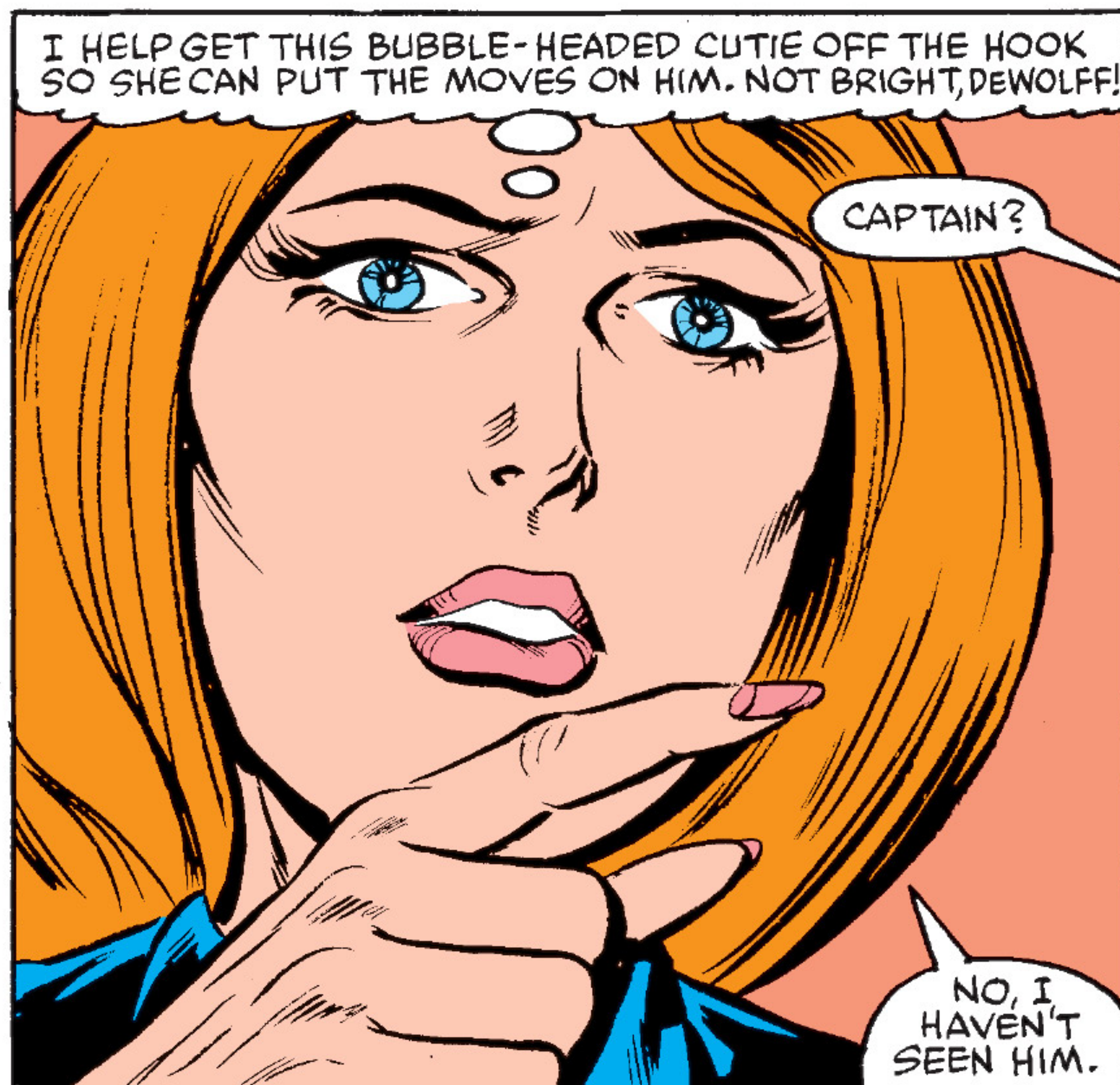
OOH, SPIDER-MAN WOULD BE UPSET WITH ME IF THAT HAPPENED.



UH... AM I RIGHT IN ASSUMING YOU DIDN'T STOP BY JUST TO SHOOT THE BREEZE?

OH, YES, I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN. I WAS REALLY JUST WONDERING IF YOU'D SEEN SPIDER-MAN LATELY. HE'S BEEN OUT OF TOUCH FOR DAYS, AND HE AND I HAD BEEN... SEEING A LOT OF EACH OTHER.

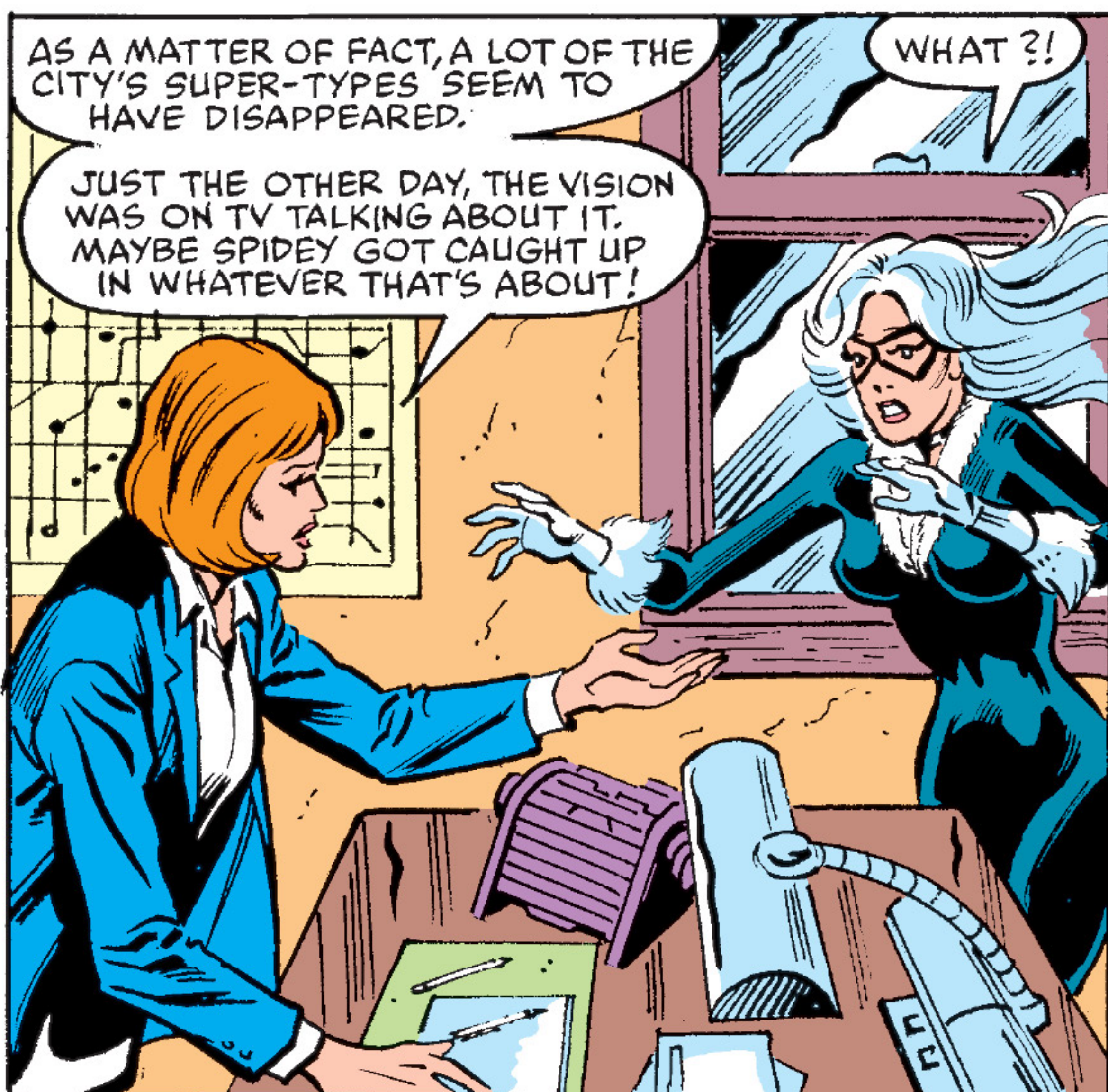
I'LL BET YOU HAD. HERE I'VE MANAGED TO DEVELOP A SCHOOL-GIRL CRUSH ON THE WEB-SLINGER AND WHAT DO I DO?



I HELP GET THIS BUBBLE-HEADED CUTIE OFF THE HOOK SO SHE CAN PUT THE MOVES ON HIM. NOT BRIGHT, DEWOLFF!

CAPTAIN?

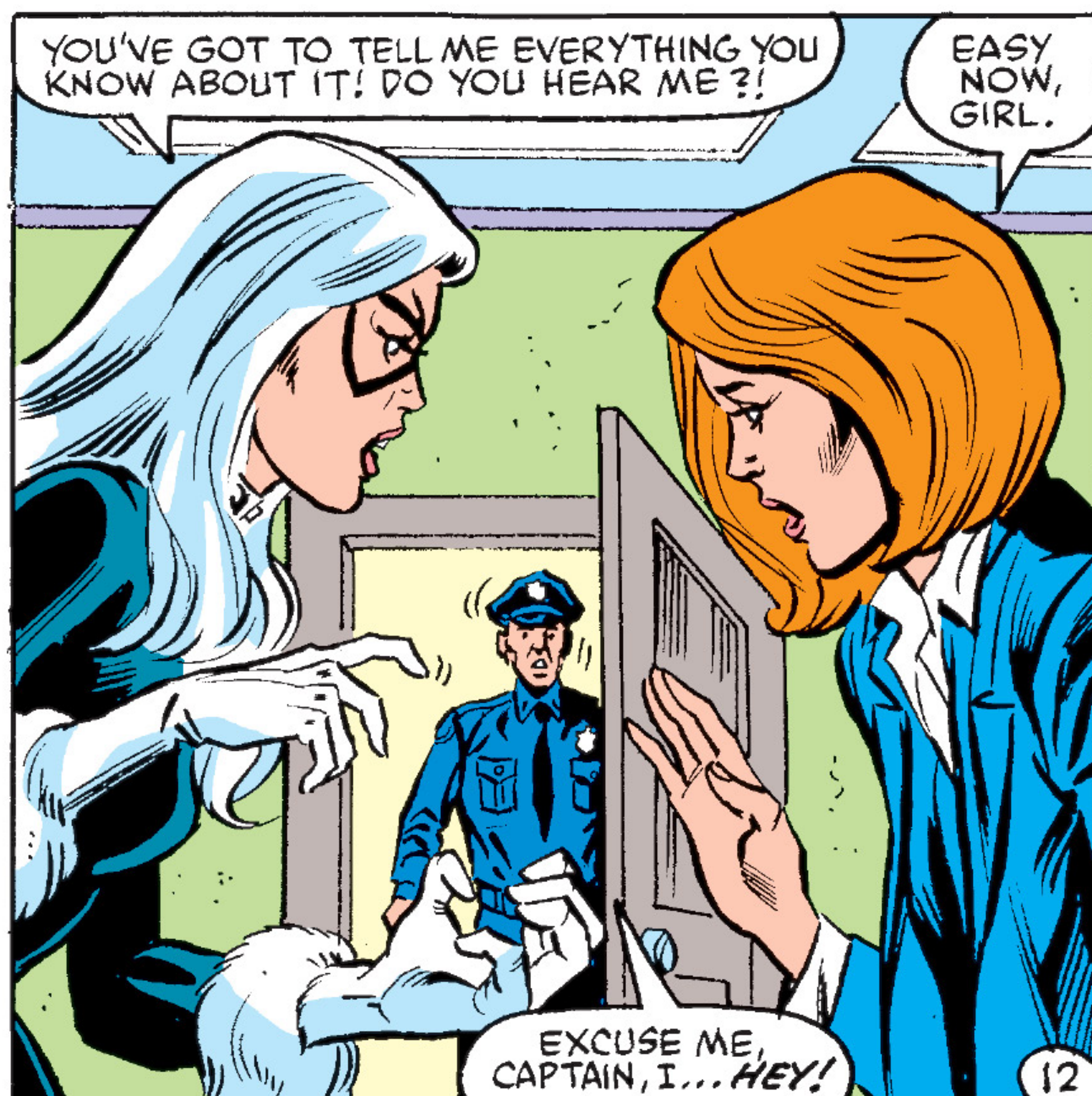
NO, I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM.



AS A MATTER OF FACT, A LOT OF THE CITY'S SUPER-TYPES SEEM TO HAVE DISAPPEARED.

JUST THE OTHER DAY, THE VISION WAS ON TV TALKING ABOUT IT. MAYBE SPIDEY GOT CAUGHT UP IN WHATEVER THAT'S ABOUT!

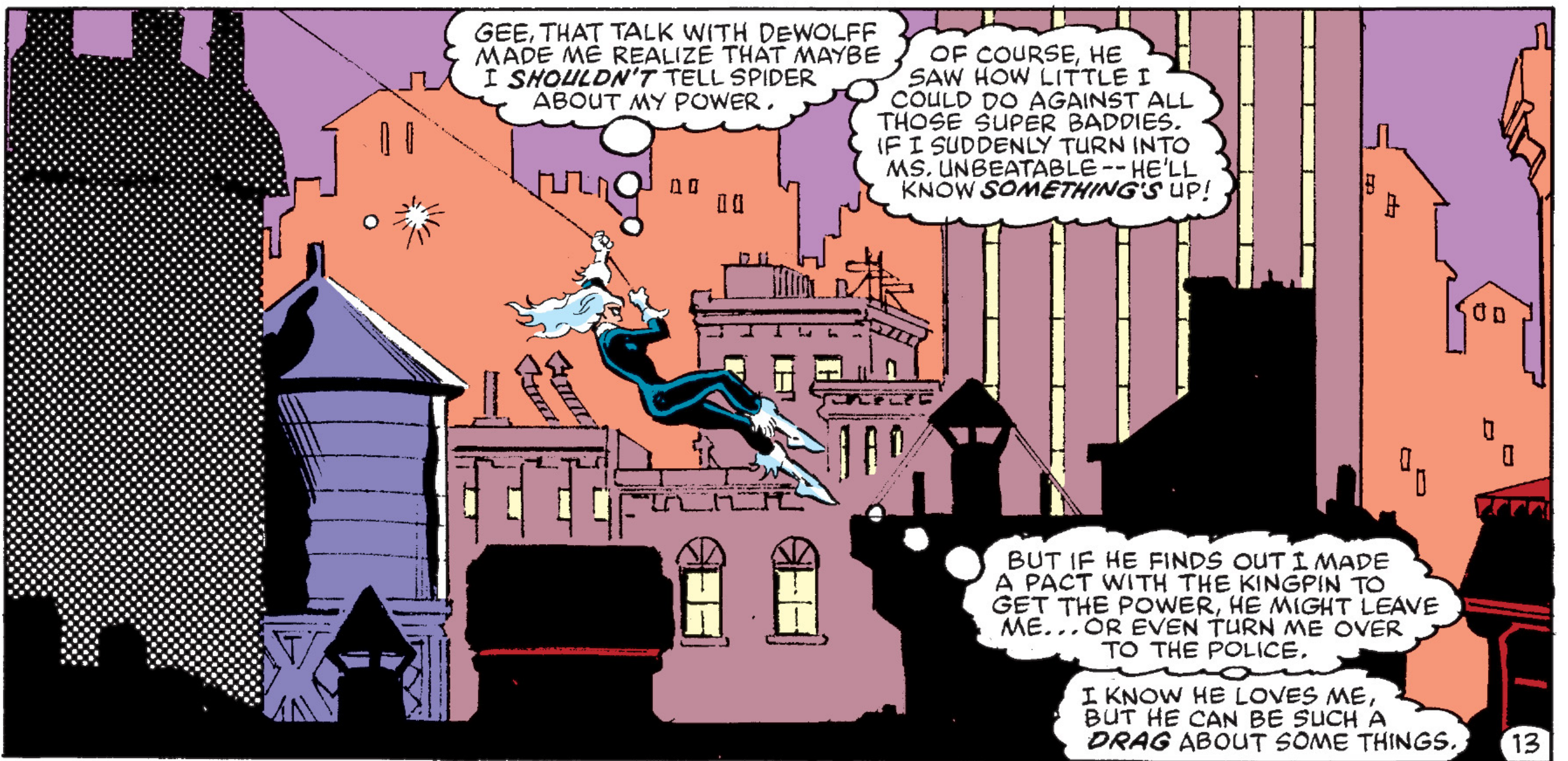
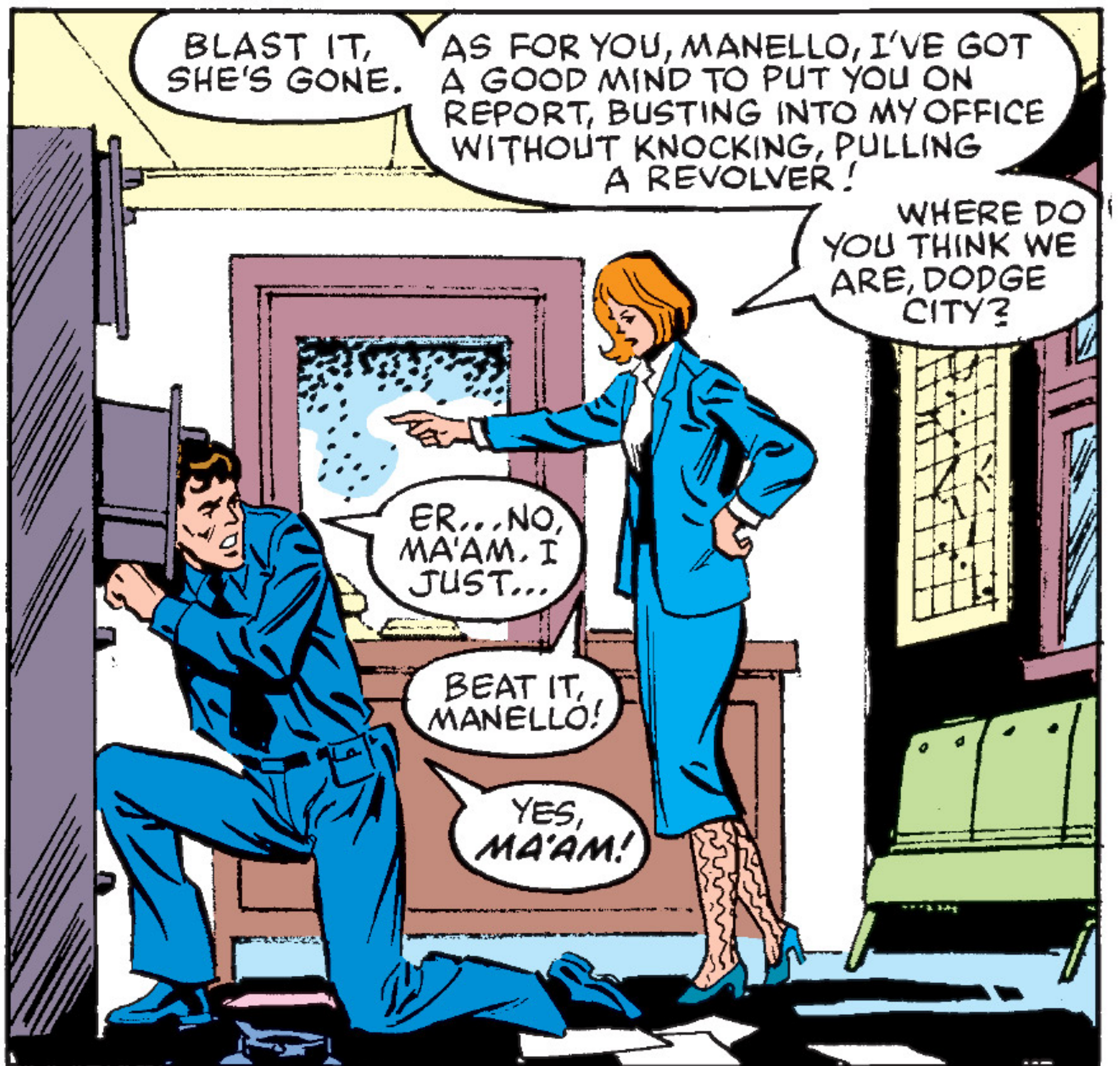
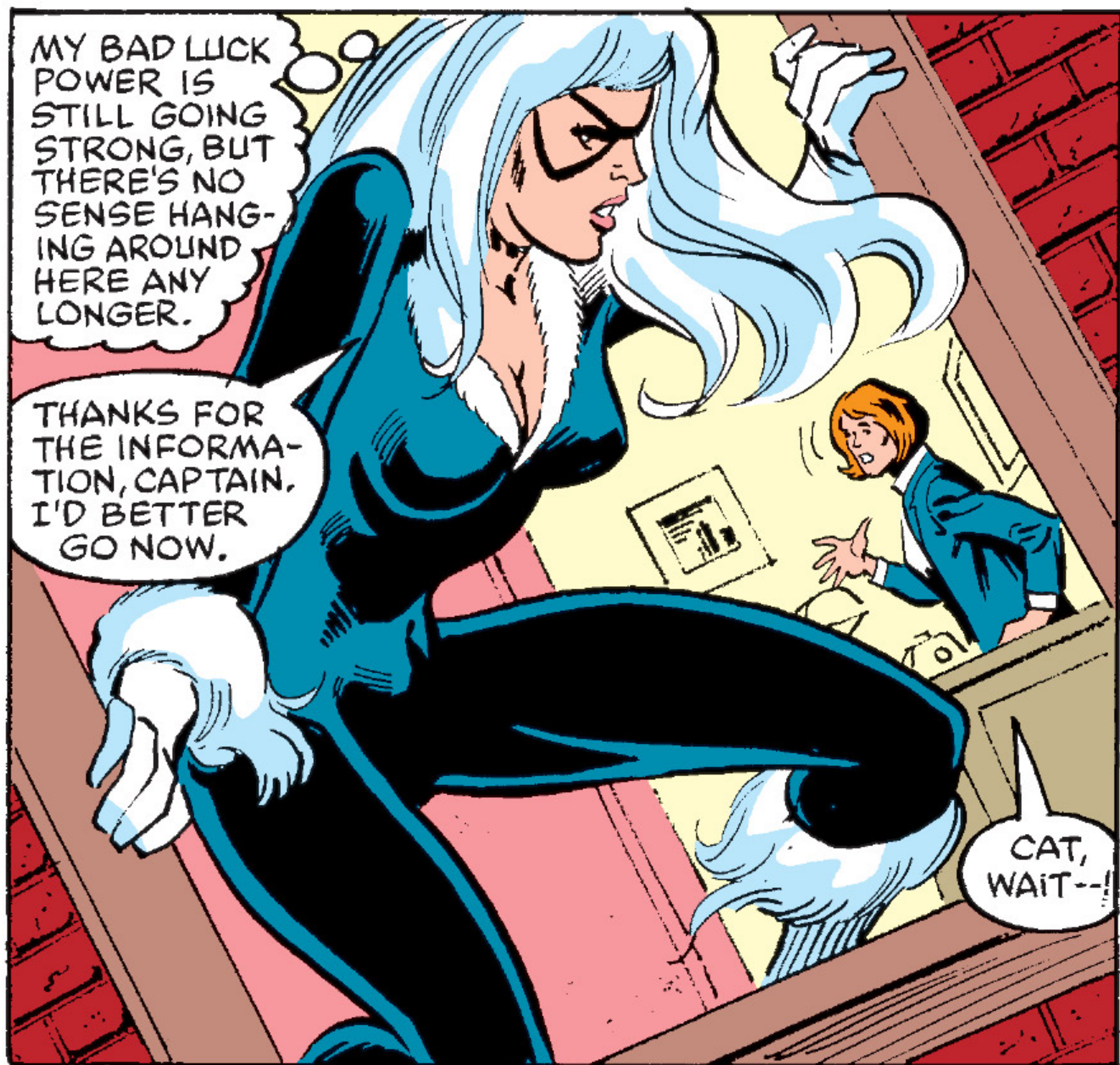
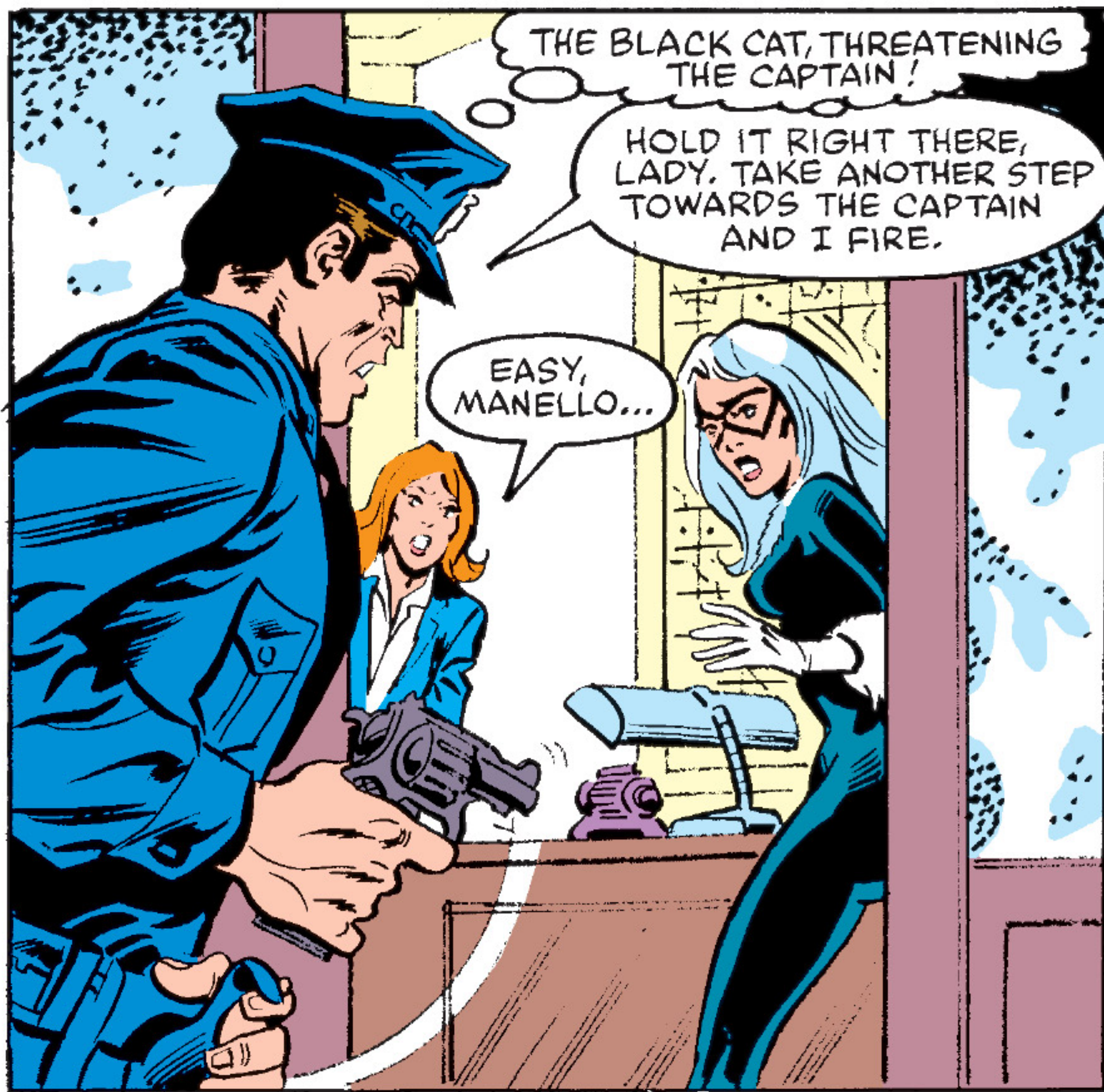
WHAT?!

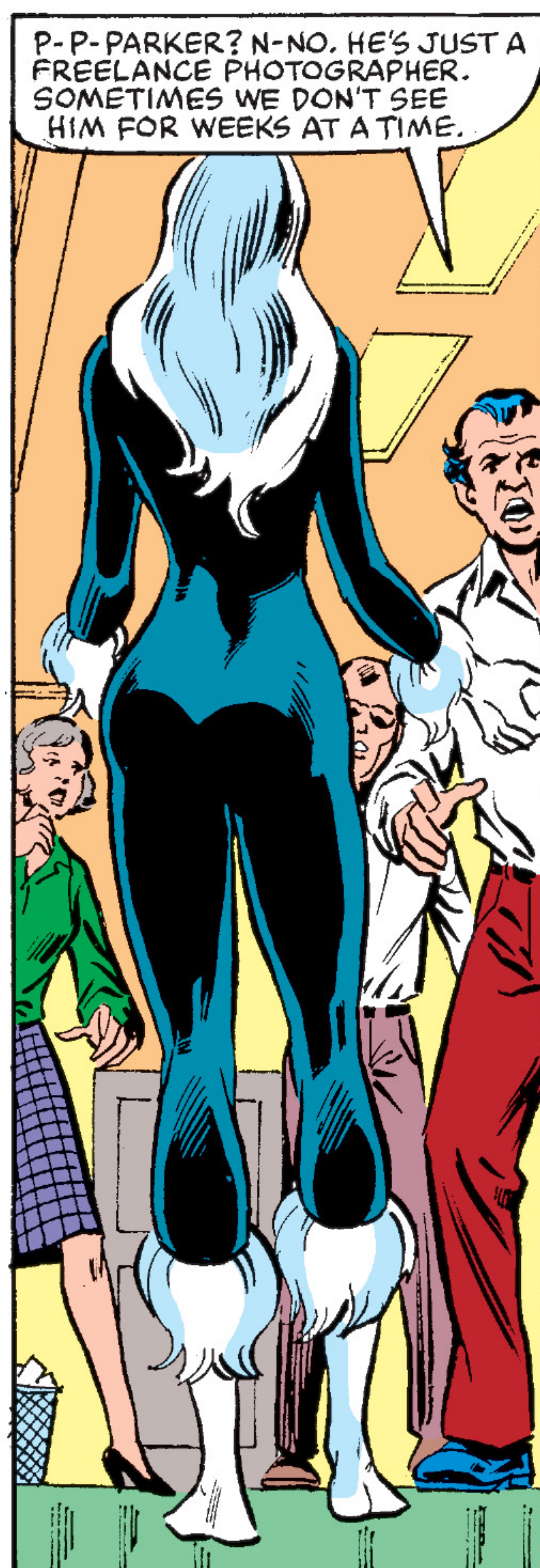
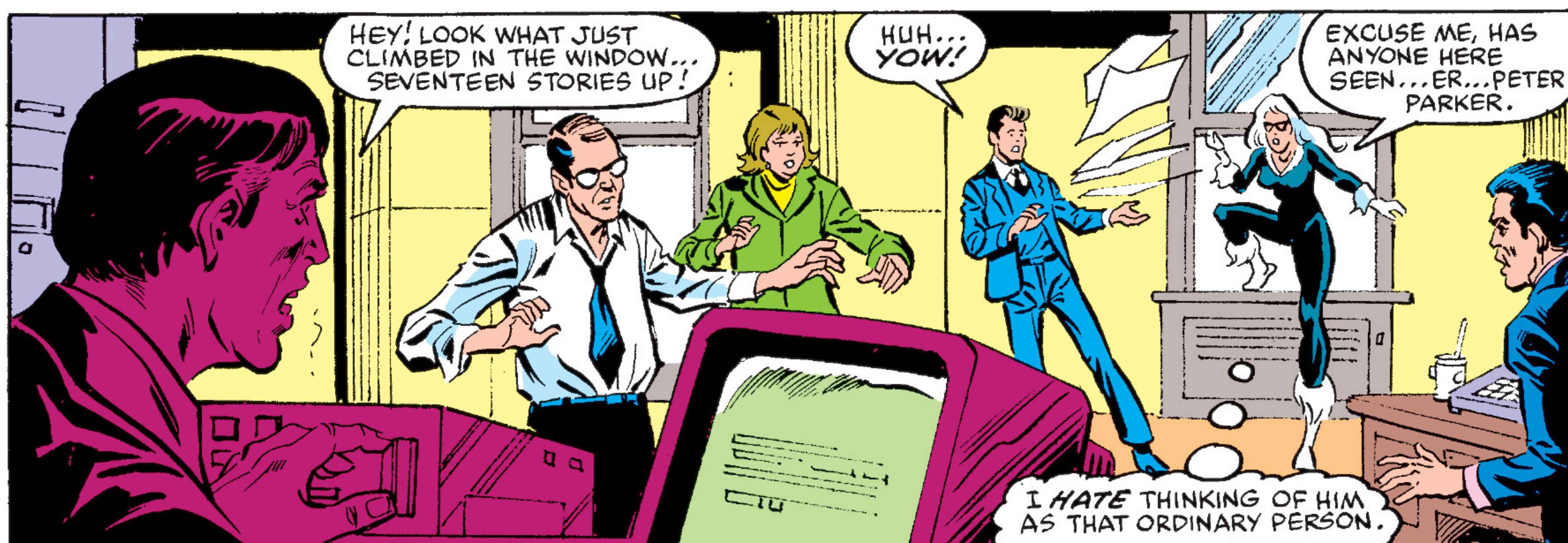
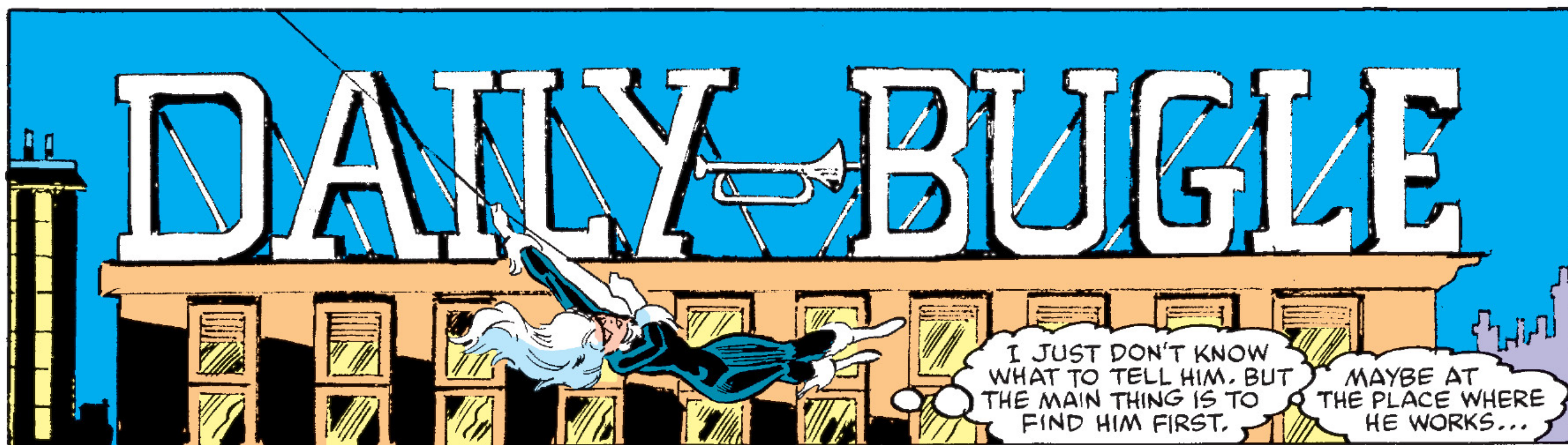


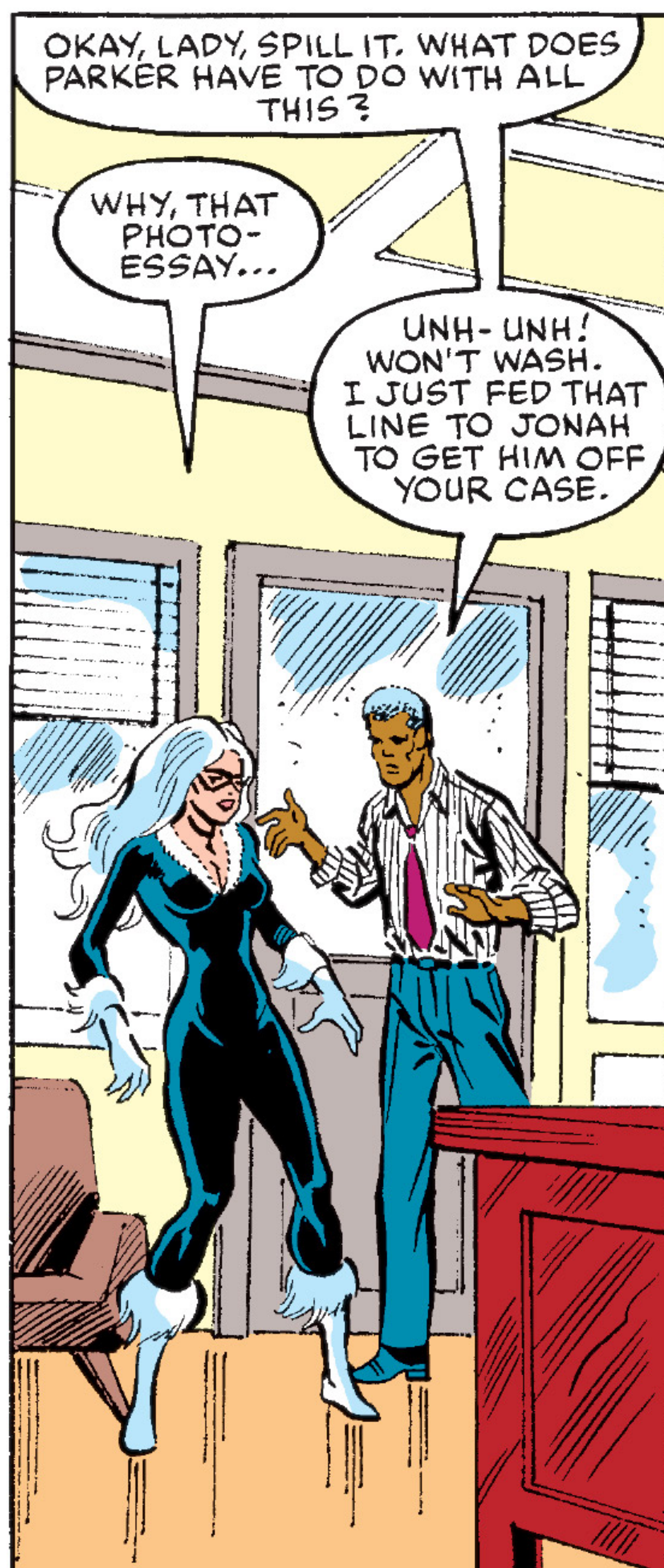
YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT IT! DO YOU HEAR ME?!

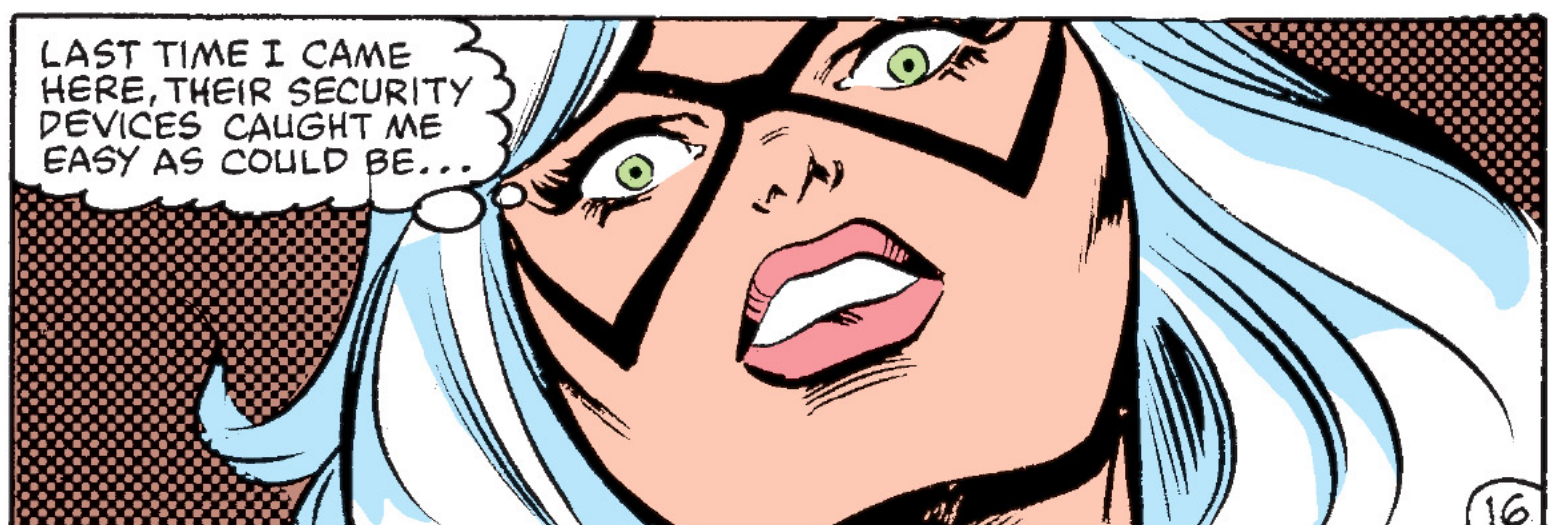
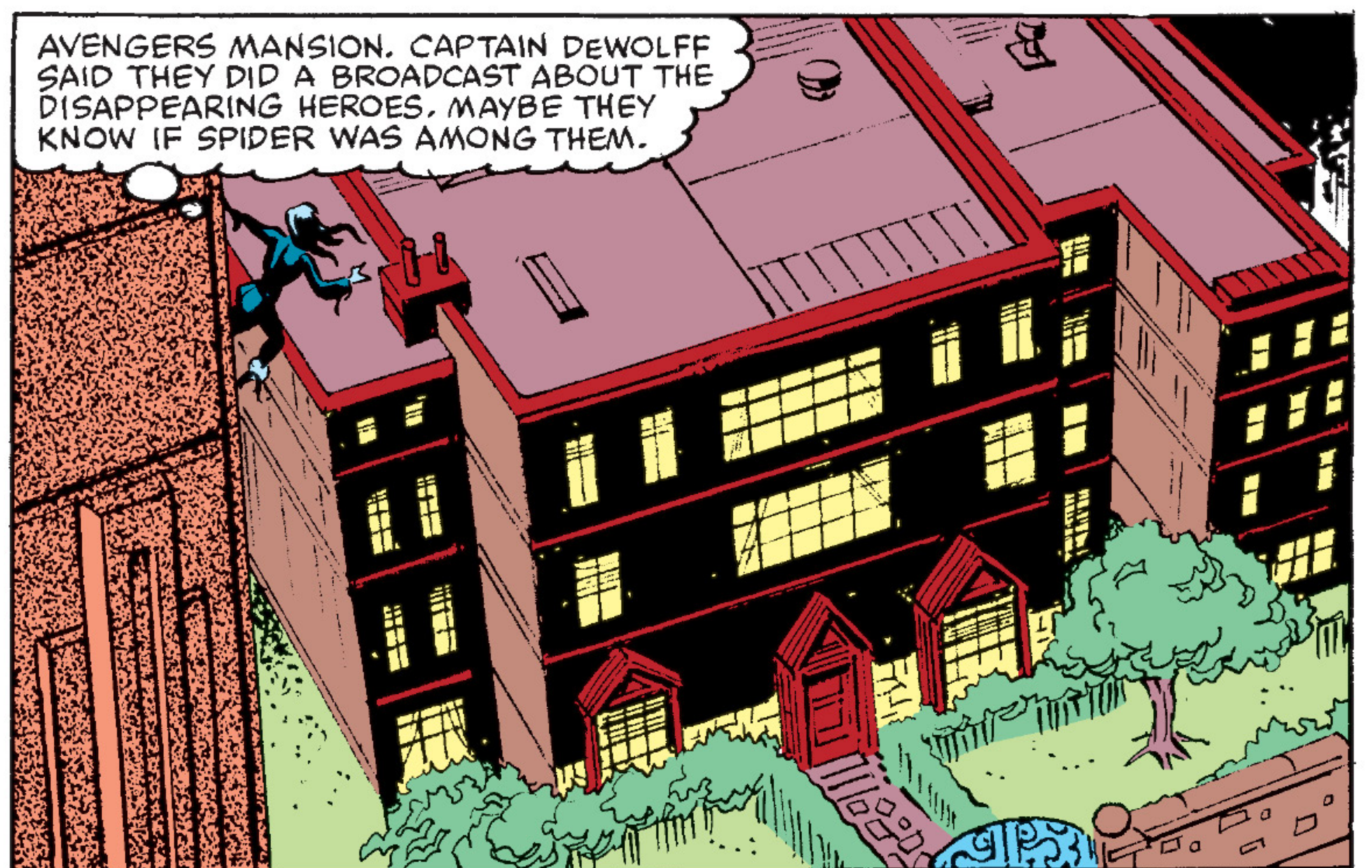
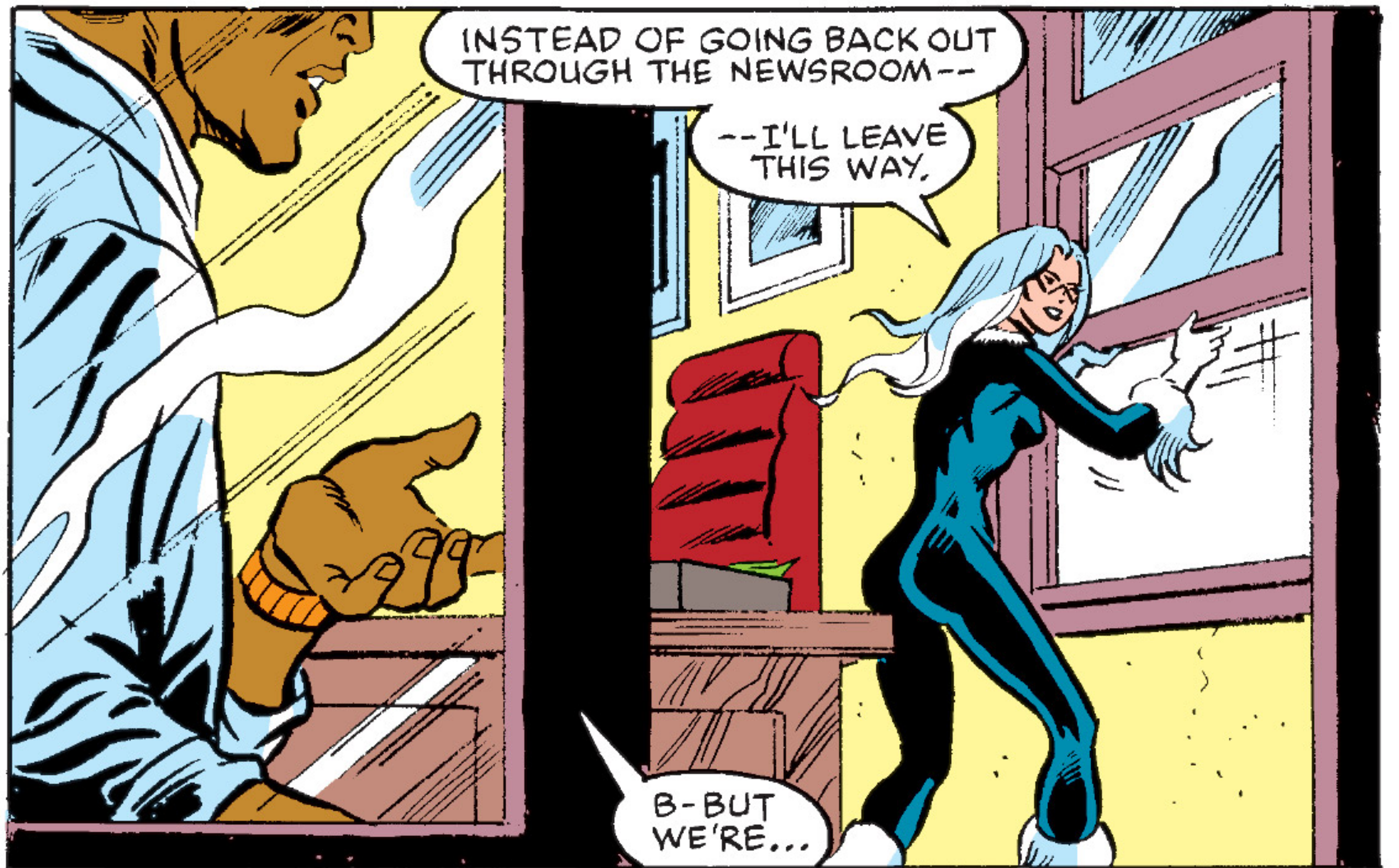
EASY NOW, GIRL.

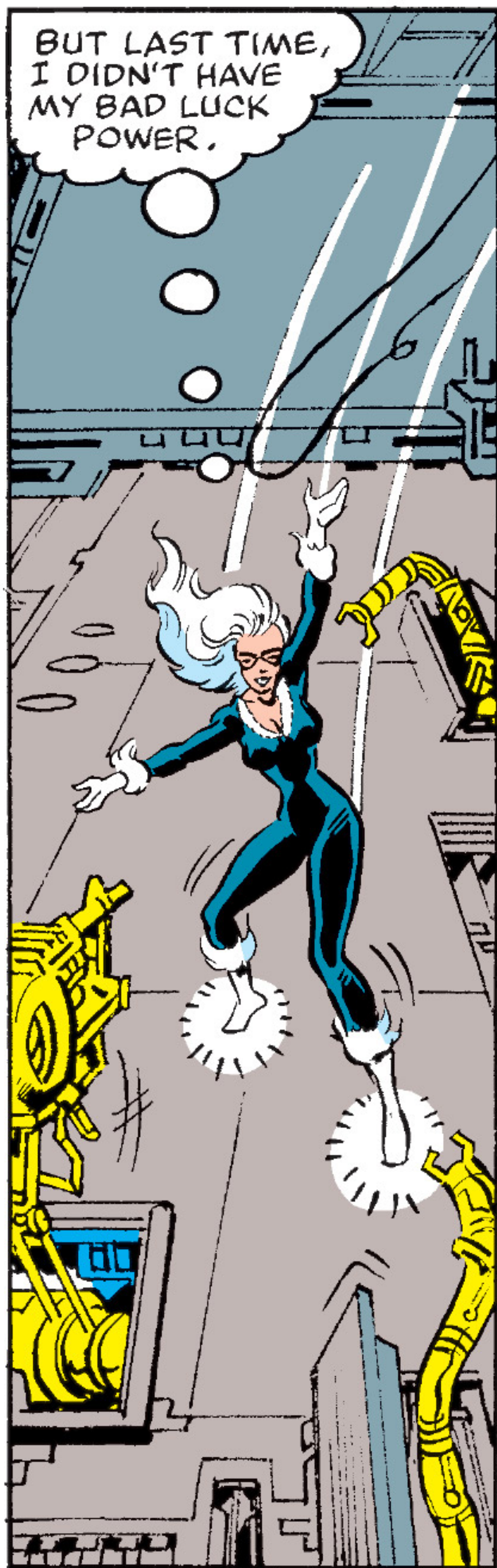
EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN, I... HEY!



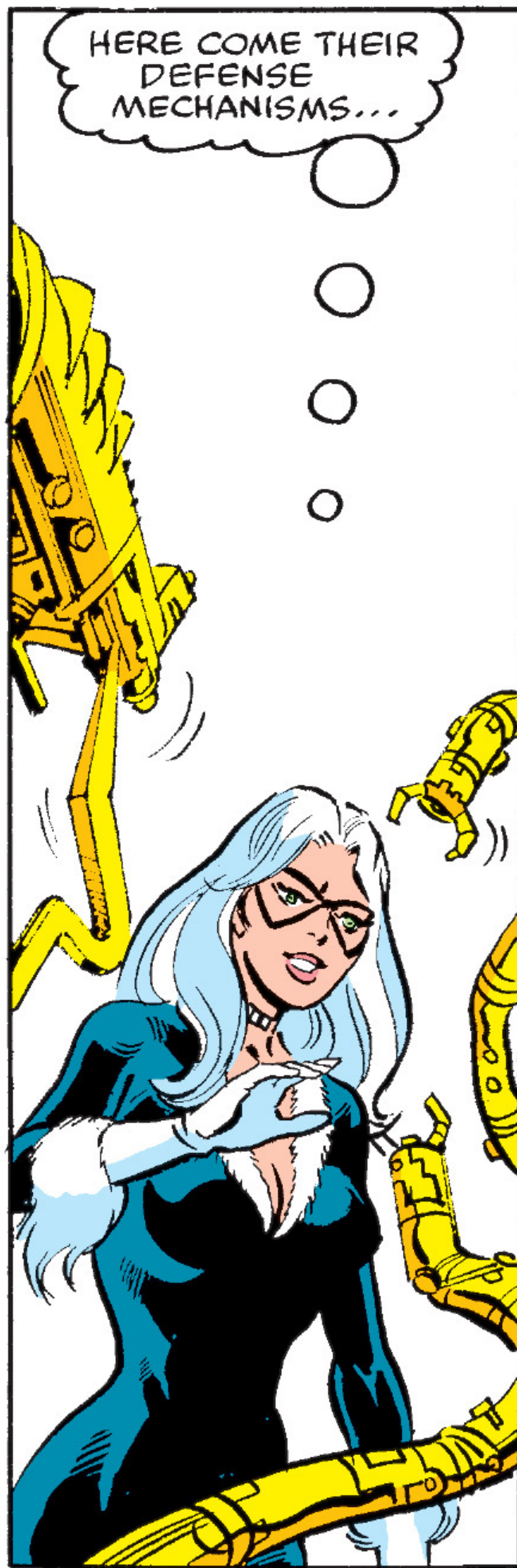




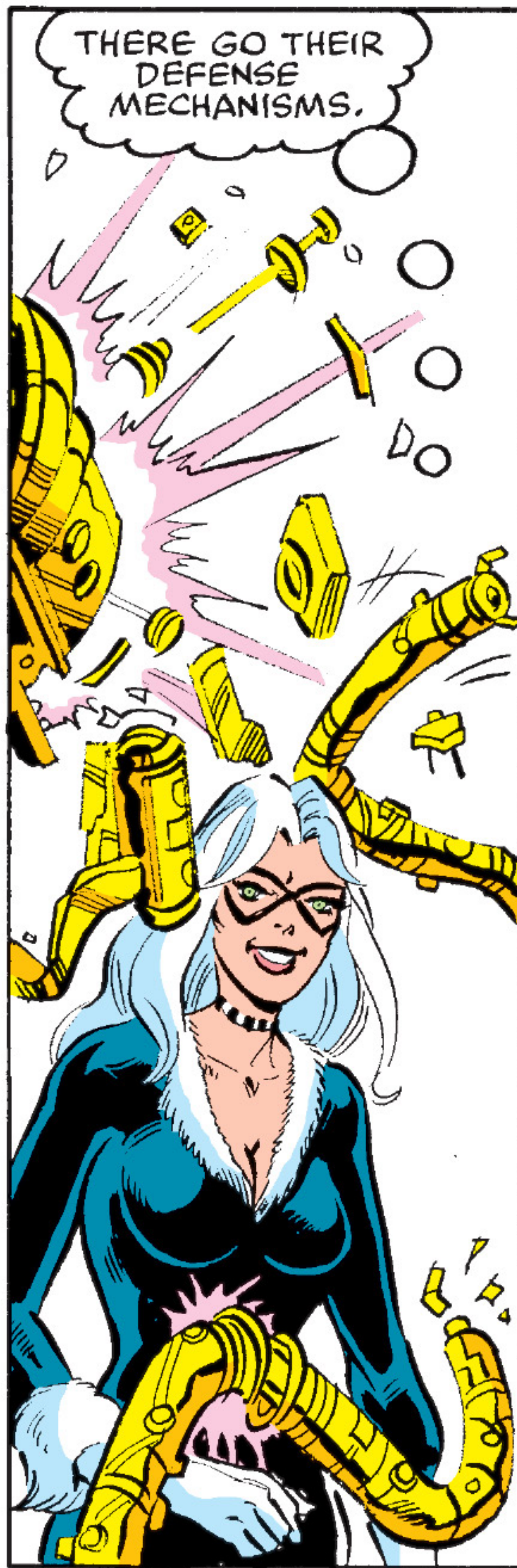




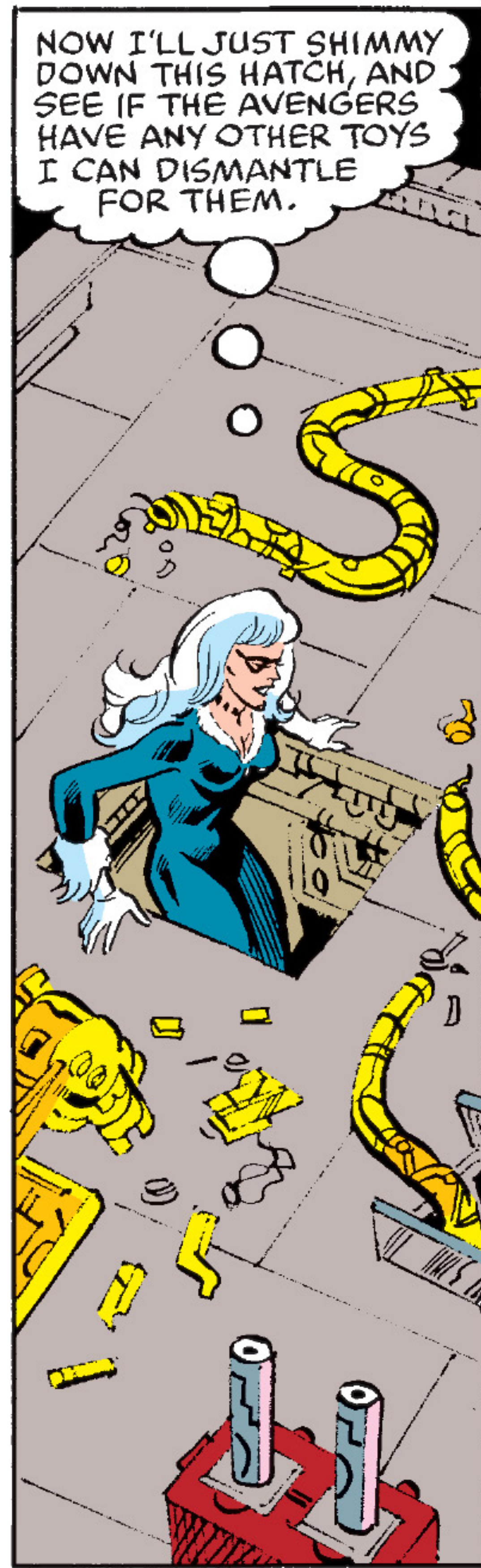
BUT LAST TIME,
I DIDN'T HAVE
MY BAD LUCK
POWER.



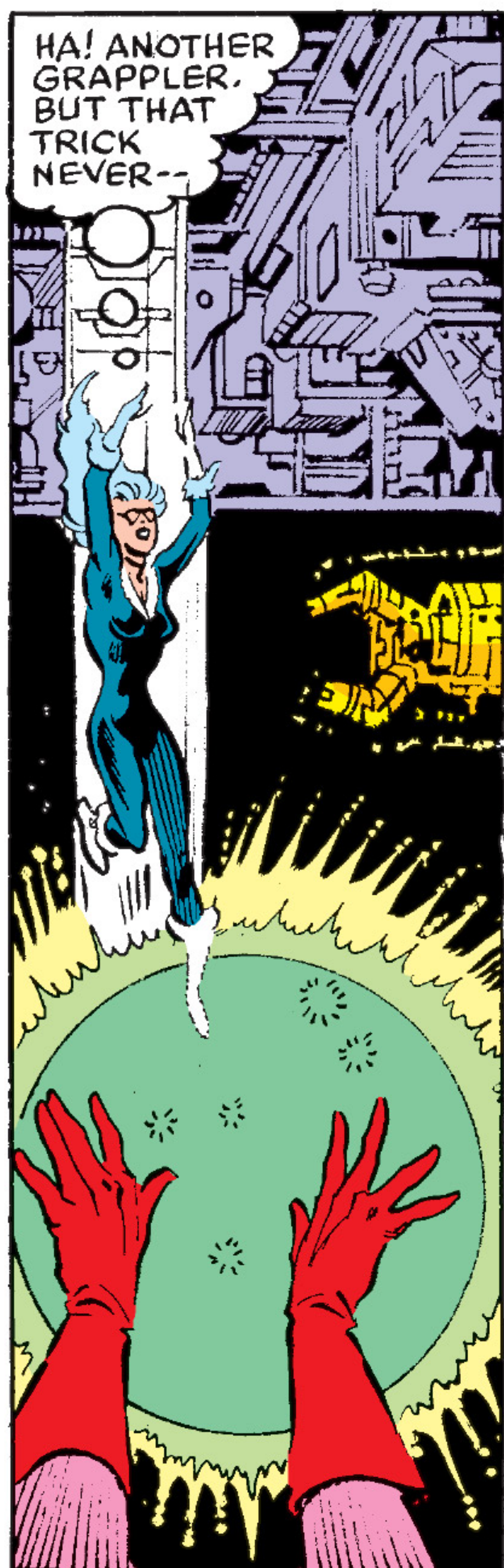
HERE COME THEIR
DEFENSE
MECHANISMS...



THERE GO THEIR
DEFENSE
MECHANISMS.



NOW I'LL JUST SHIMMY
DOWN THIS HATCH, AND
SEE IF THE AVENGERS
HAVE ANY OTHER TOYS
I CAN DISMANTLE
FOR THEM.

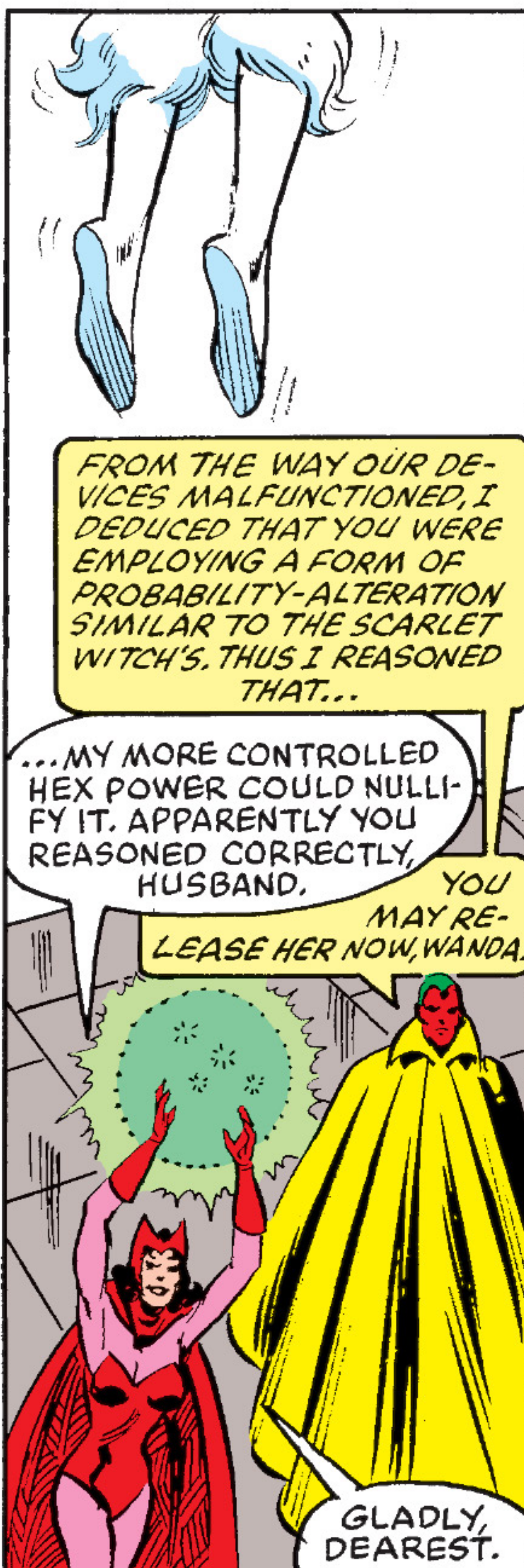


HA! ANOTHER
GRAPPLER.
BUT THAT
TRICK
NEVER--



--WORKS?!

BUT THERE'S NO WAY
IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN
ABLE TO GRAB ME!



FROM THE WAY OUR DE-
VICES MALFUNCTIONED, I
DEDUCED THAT YOU WERE
EMPLOYING A FORM OF
PROBABILITY-ALTERATION
SIMILAR TO THE SCARLET
WITCH'S. THUS I REASONED
THAT...

...MY MORE CONTROLLED
HEX POWER COULD NULLI-
FY IT. APPARENTLY YOU
REASONED CORRECTLY,
HUSBAND.

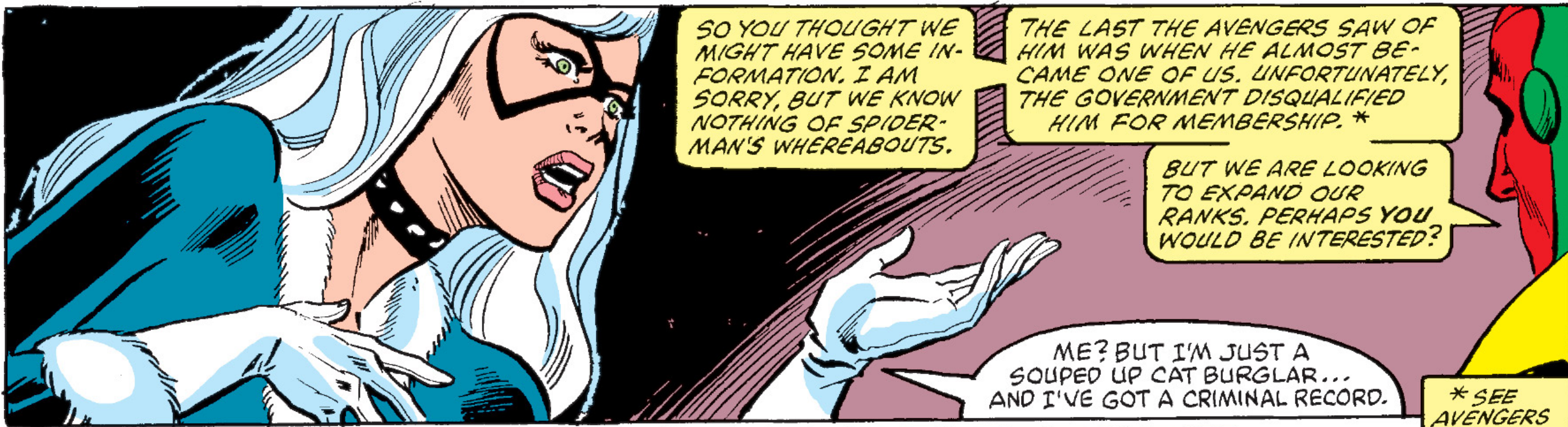
YOU
MAY RE-
LEASE HER NOW, WANDA.

GLADLY,
DEAREST.



CAPTAIN AMERICA IN-
FORMED ME OF YOUR
QUEST FOR SUPER-POWERS,
BLACK CAT. APPARENTLY
YOU WERE SUCCESSFUL.

UMMM...YEAH.
BUT NOW I'M
LOOKING FOR
SPIDER-MAN,
VISION. HE'S DIS-
APPEARED, AND
I HEARD SOME
AVENGERS WERE
MISSING
TOO, SO...



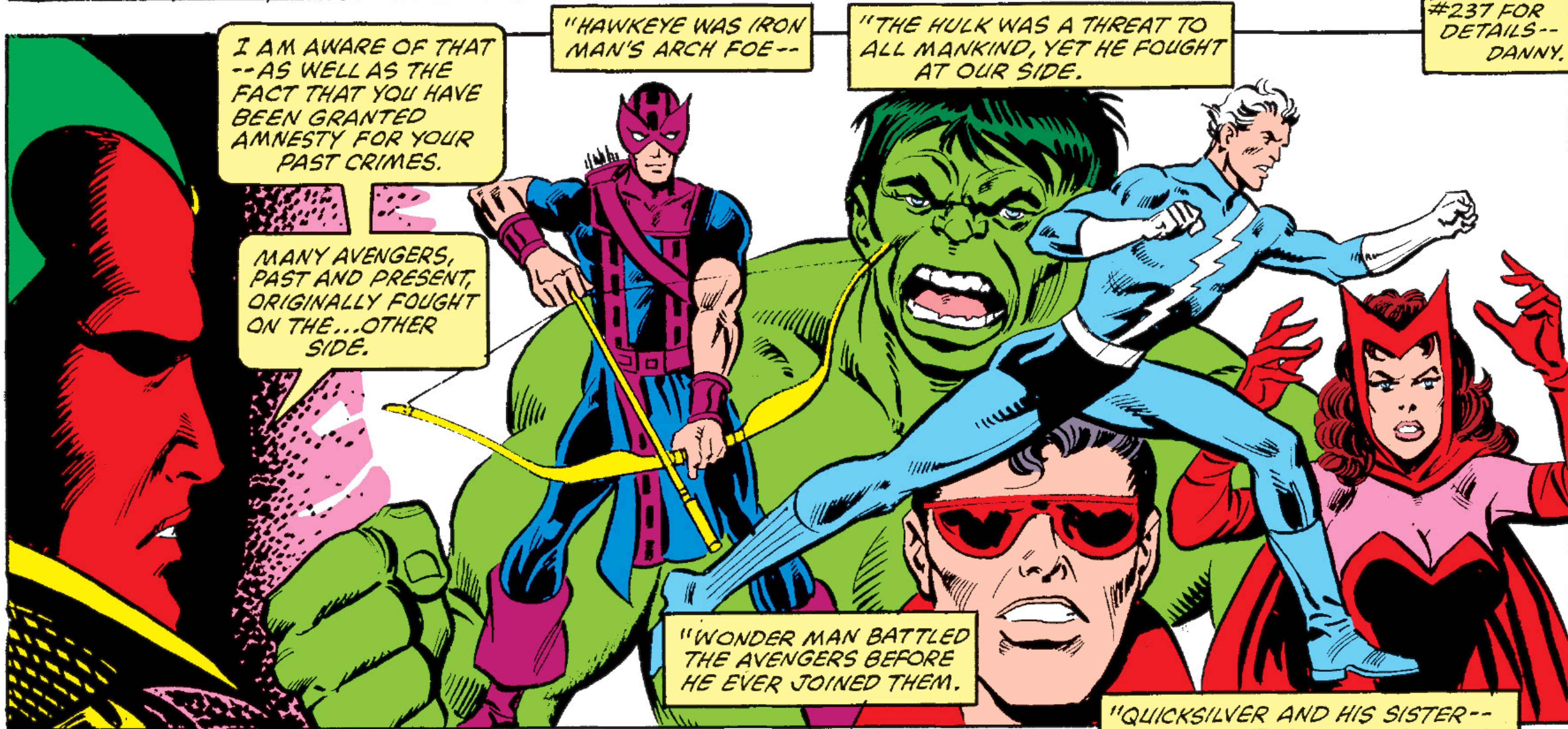
SO YOU THOUGHT WE MIGHT HAVE SOME INFORMATION. I AM SORRY, BUT WE KNOW NOTHING OF SPIDER-MAN'S WHEREABOUTS.

THE LAST THE AVENGERS SAW OF HIM WAS WHEN HE ALMOST BECAME ONE OF US. UNFORTUNATELY, THE GOVERNMENT DISQUALIFIED HIM FOR MEMBERSHIP. *

BUT WE ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND OUR RANKS. PERHAPS YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED?

ME? BUT I'M JUST A SOUPED UP CAT BURGLAR... AND I'VE GOT A CRIMINAL RECORD.

* SEE AVENGERS #237 FOR DETAILS-- DANNY.



I AM AWARE OF THAT -- AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE BEEN GRANTED AMNESTY FOR YOUR PAST CRIMES.

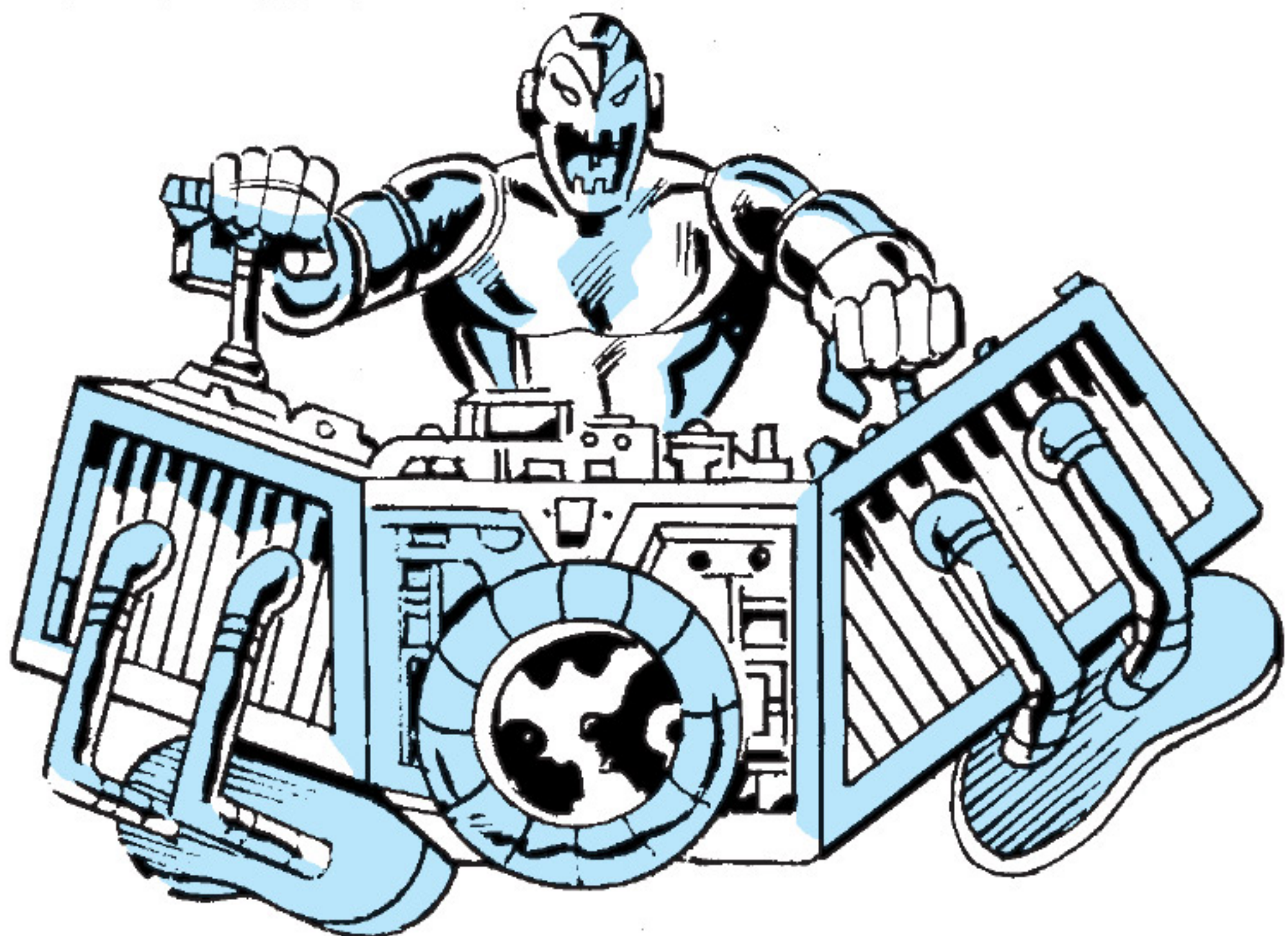
"HAWKEYE WAS IRON MAN'S ARCH FOE--

"THE HULK WAS A THREAT TO ALL MANKIND, YET HE FOUGHT AT OUR SIDE.

MANY AVENGERS, PAST AND PRESENT, ORIGINALLY FOUGHT ON THE...OTHER SIDE.

"WONDER MAN BATTLED THE AVENGERS BEFORE HE EVER JOINED THEM.

"QUICKSILVER AND HIS SISTER-- MY WIFE--THE SCARLET WITCH, FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF EVIL MUTANTS AT ONE TIME.



WHY EVEN I, MYSELF, WAS GRANTED LIFE AND POWER BY THE SINISTER ROBOT ULTRON 5, WHO ATTEMPTED TO USE MY SYNTHETOID ABILITIES TO CRUSH THE AVENGERS.

EVENTUALLY, I WAS FREED FROM HIS INFLUENCE, AND EVER SINCE I HAVE ENDEAVORED TO FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT.



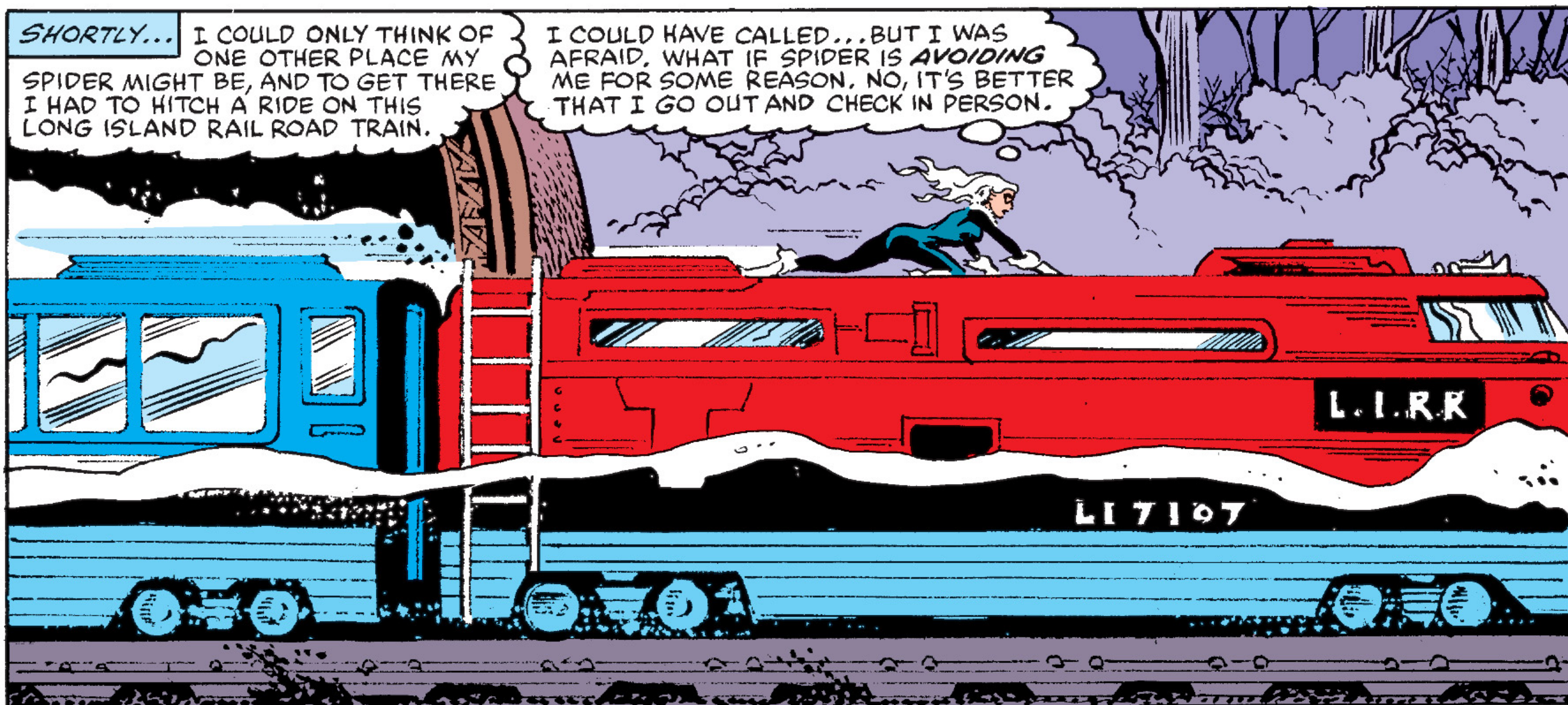
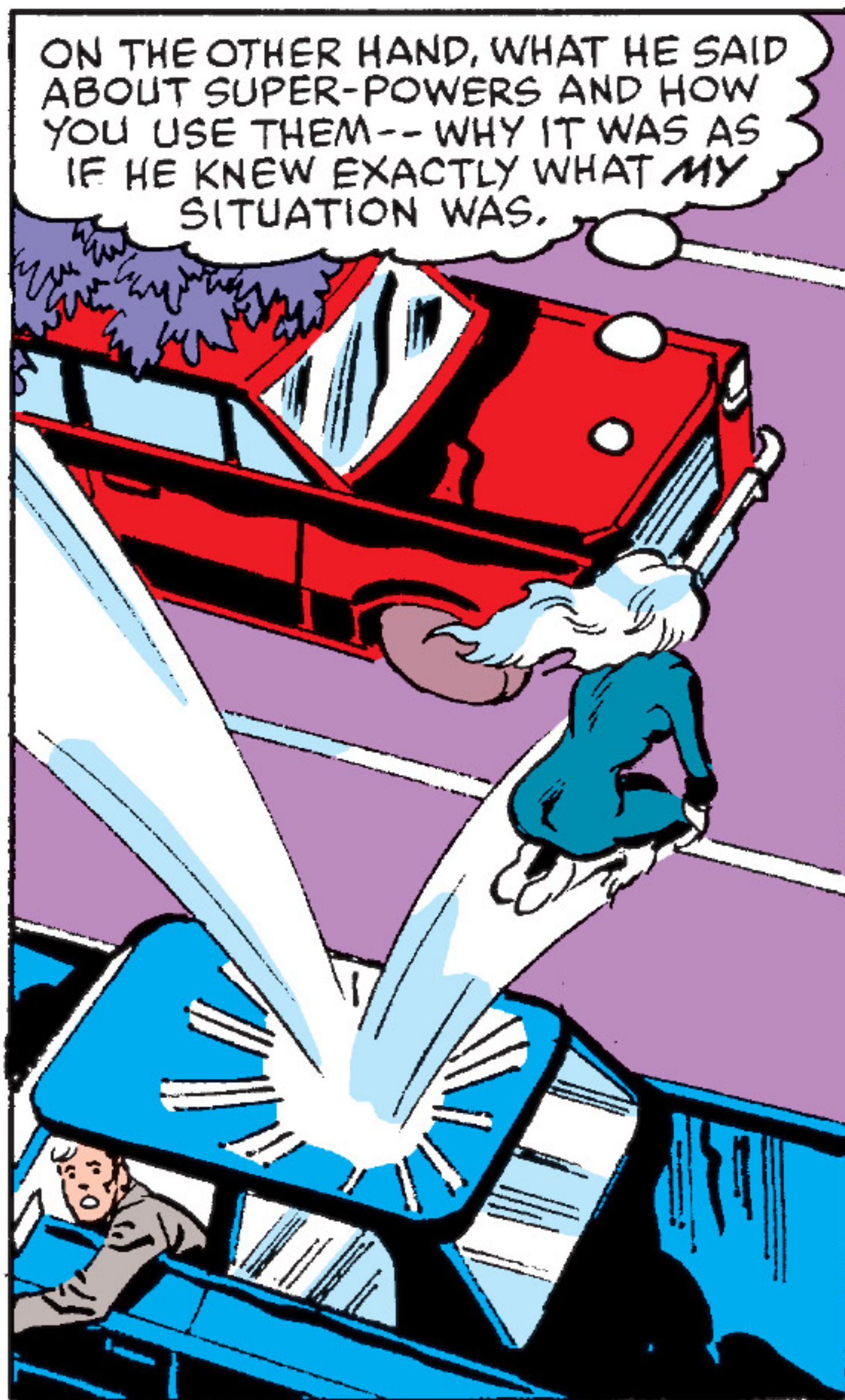
ALWAYS REMEMBER, BLACK CAT-- IT ISN'T WHAT YOU WERE OR HOW YOU CAME BY YOUR POWERS THAT IS IMPORTANT... IT'S WHAT YOU ARE AND HOW YOU USE THOSE POWERS **NOW!**

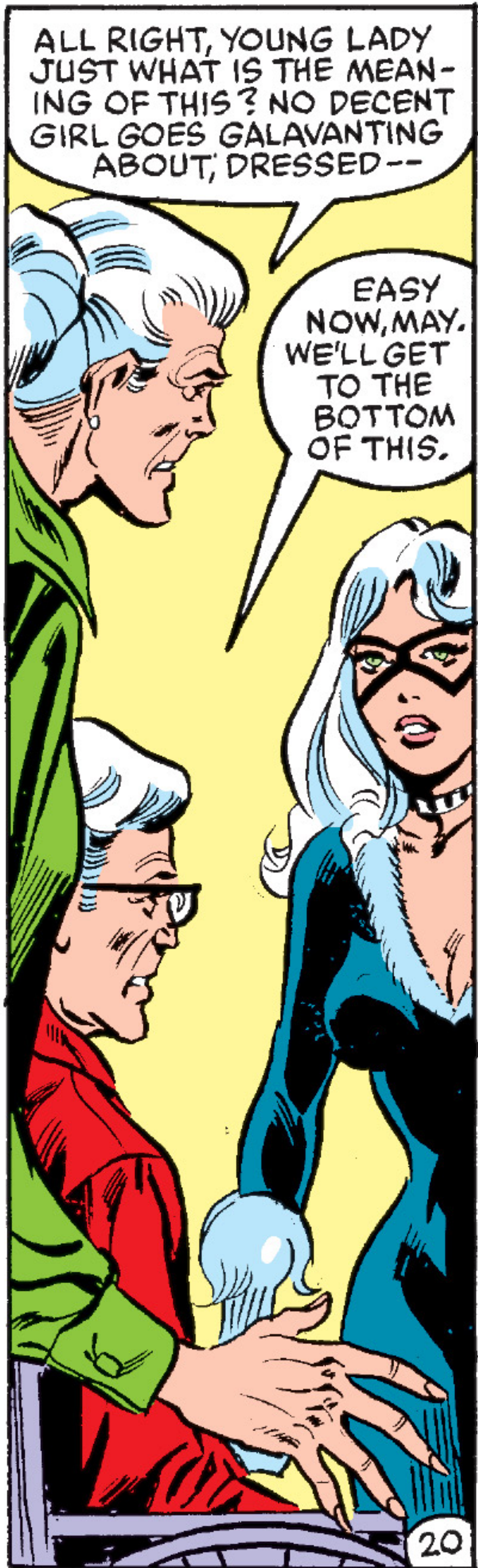
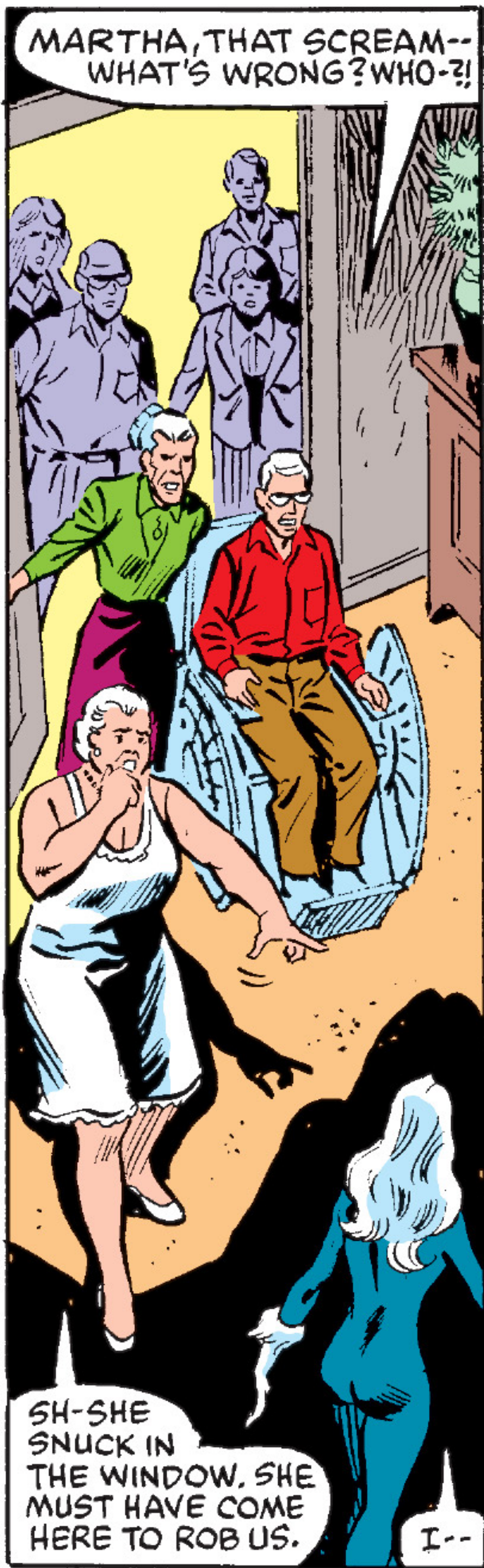
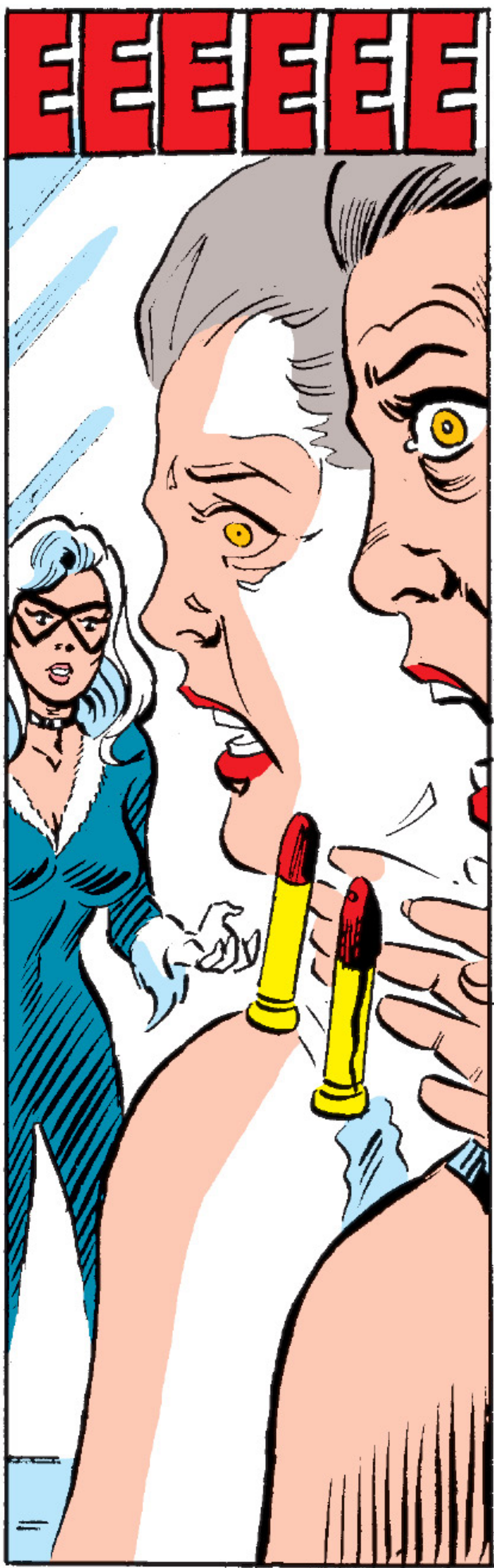
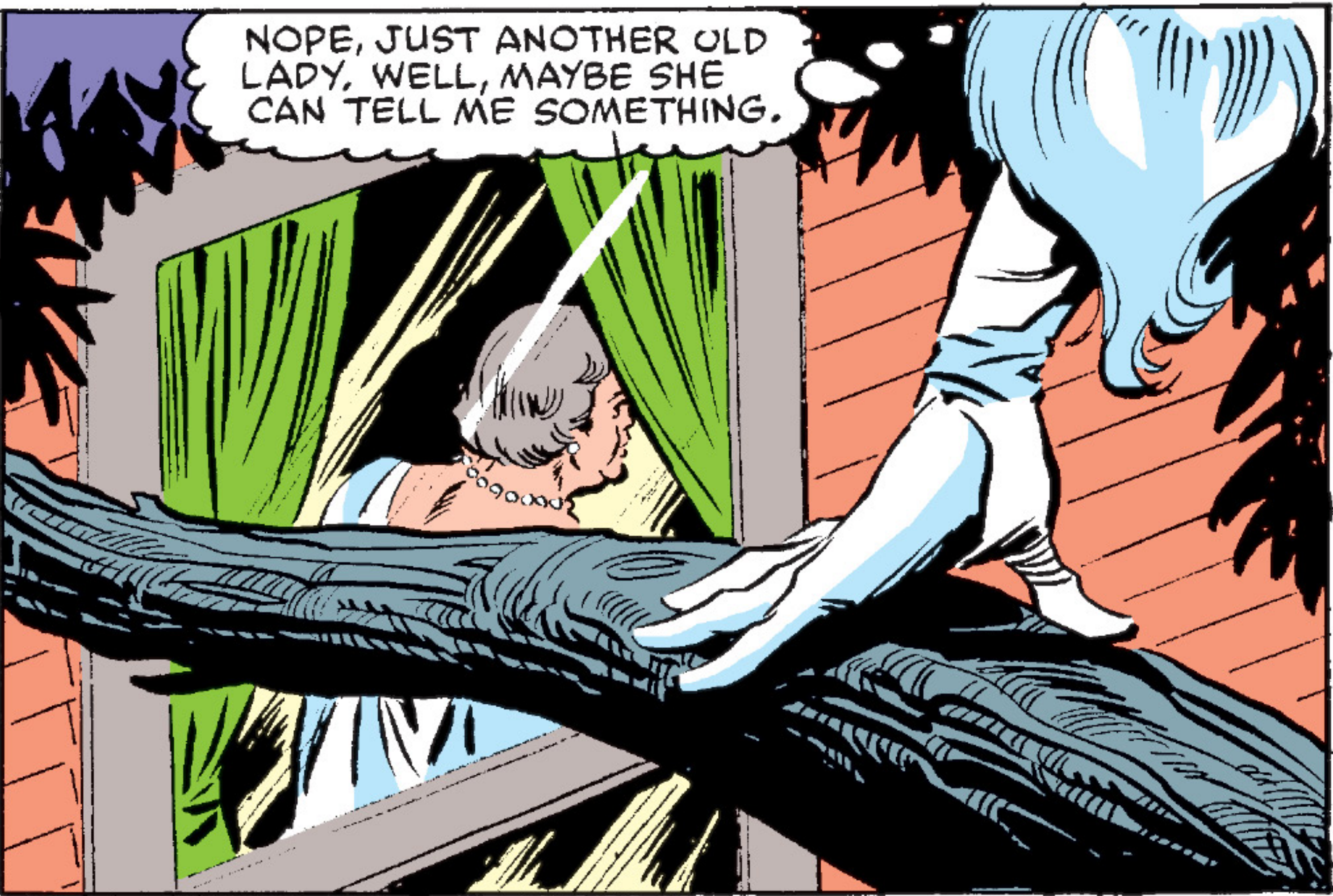
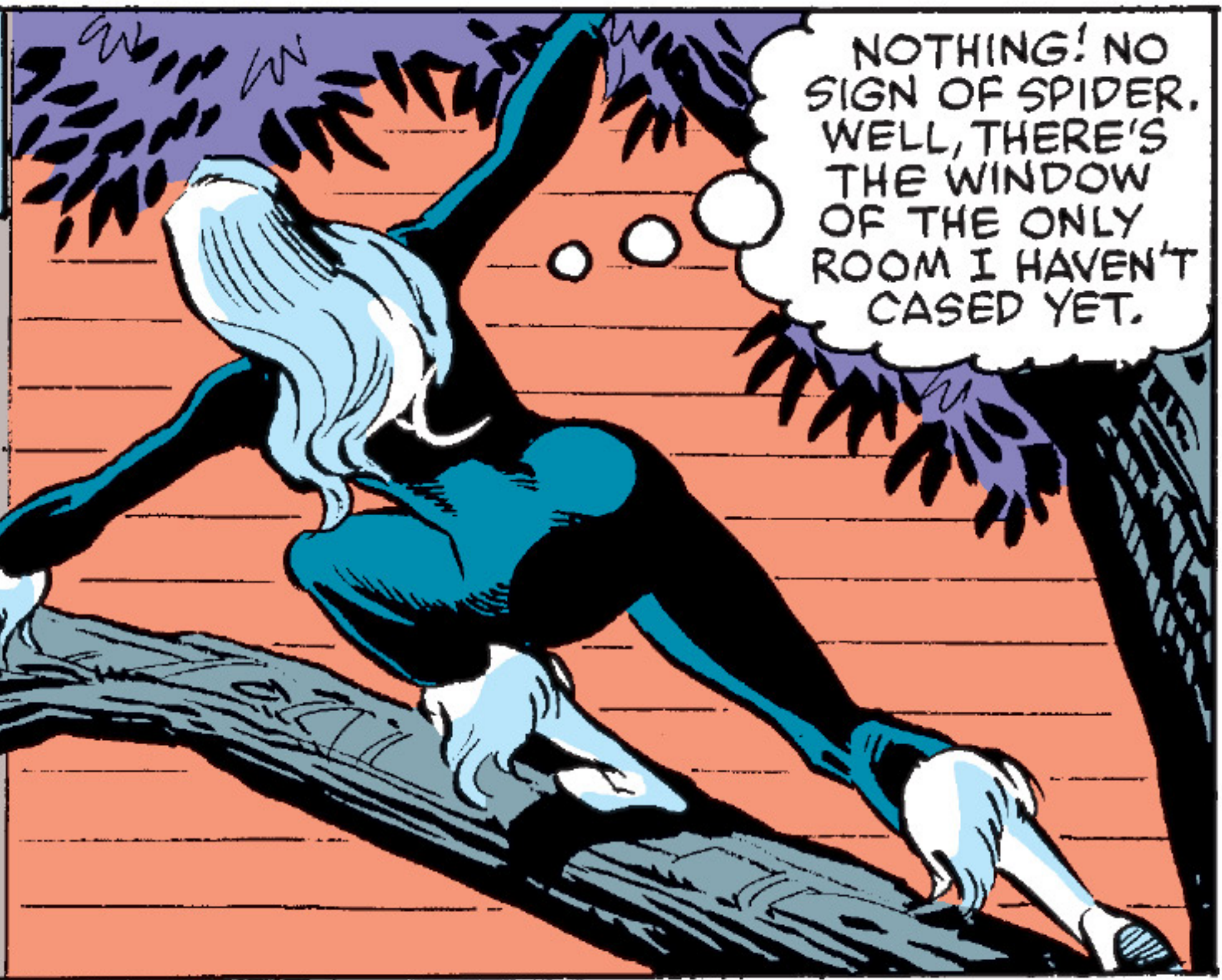
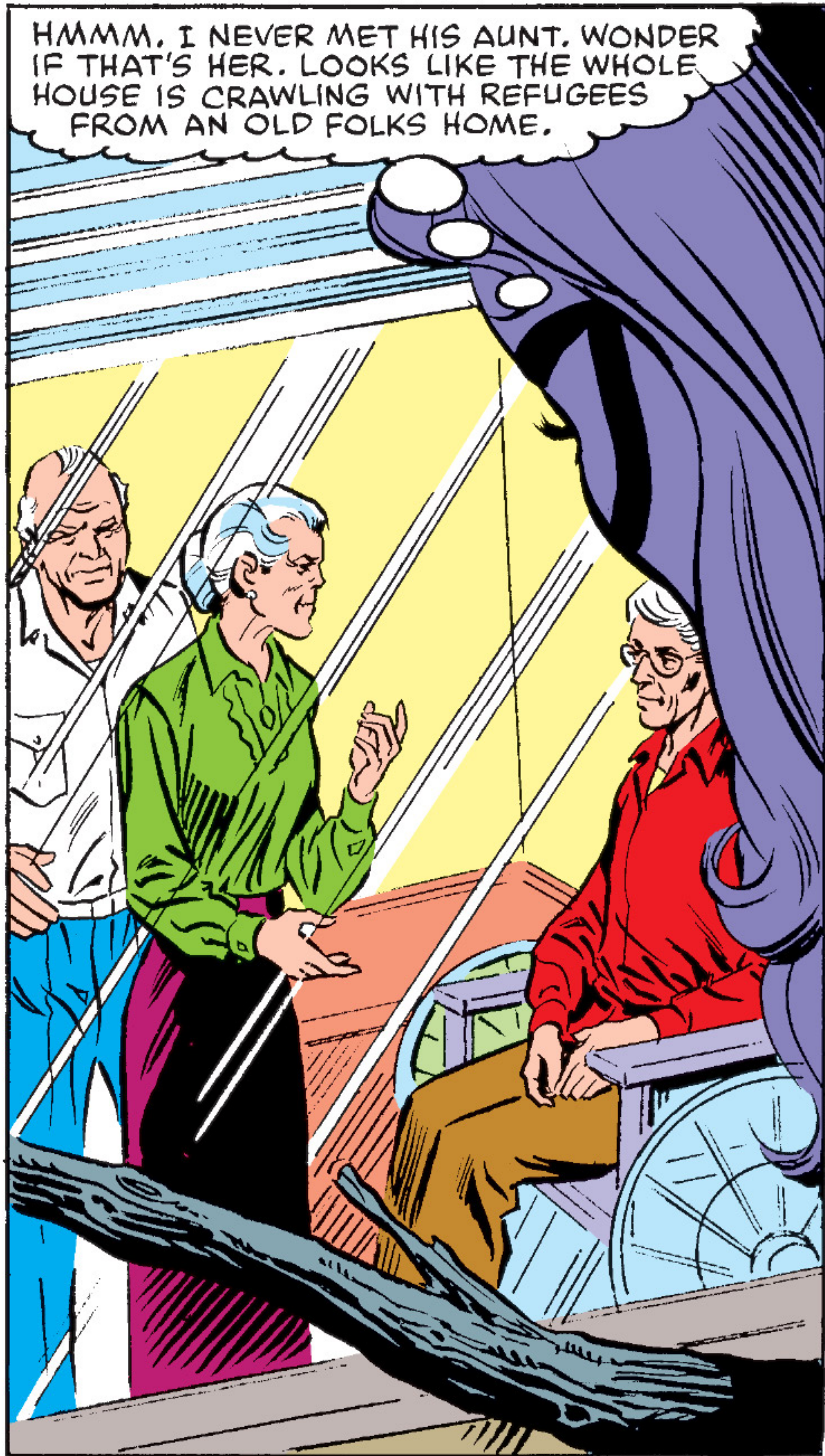


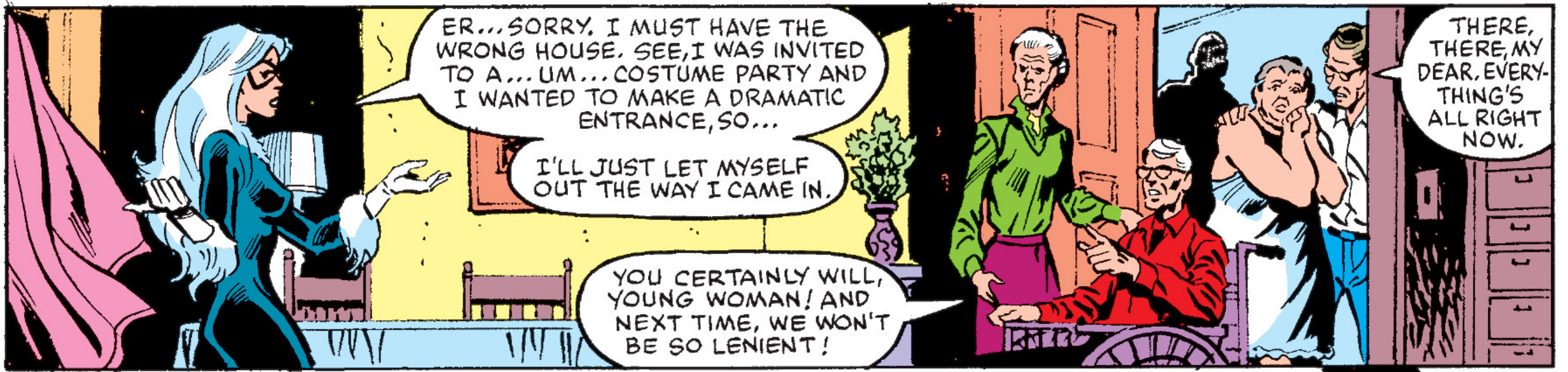
UH...YES, WELL... THANKS, I'LL THINK OVER YOUR OFFER TO JOIN UP. MEANWHILE, IF YOU SHOULD SEE SPIDER-MAN...

WE'LL INFORM HIM YOU ARE LOOKING FOR HIM. JARVIS, PLEASE SEE THE LADY OUT...

YES, MASTER VISION. GOOD EVENING, MADAME.





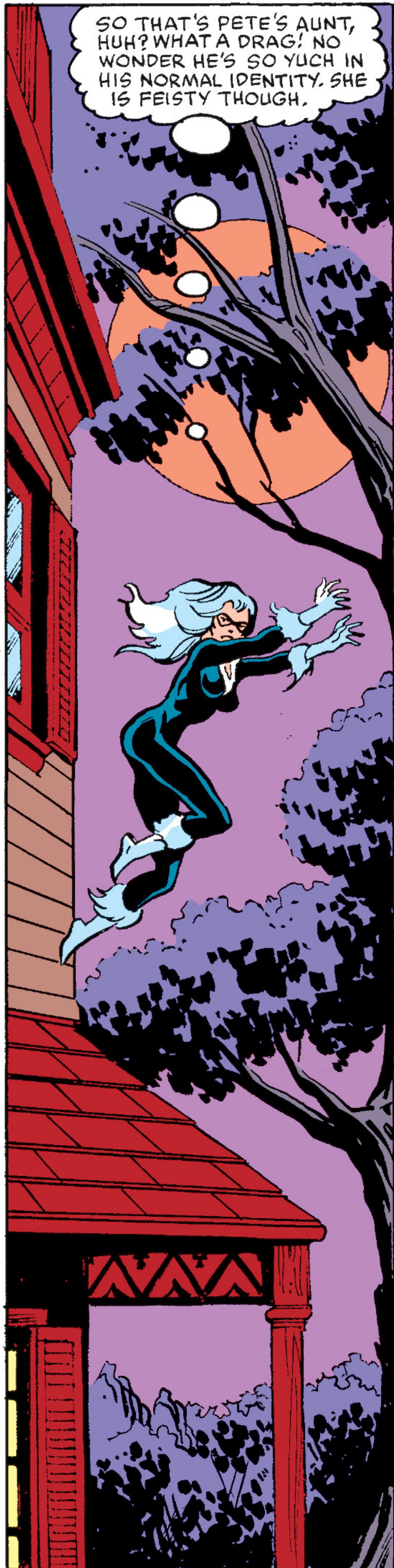


ER... SORRY. I MUST HAVE THE WRONG HOUSE. SEE, I WAS INVITED TO A... UM... COSTUME PARTY AND I WANTED TO MAKE A DRAMATIC ENTRANCE, SO...

I'LL JUST LET MYSELF OUT THE WAY I CAME IN.

YOU CERTAINLY WILL, YOUNG WOMAN! AND NEXT TIME, WE WON'T BE SO LENIENT!

THERE, THERE, MY DEAR. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT NOW.



SO THAT'S PETE'S AUNT, HUH? WHAT A DRAG! NO WONDER HE'S SO YUCH IN HIS NORMAL IDENTITY. SHE IS FEISTY THOUGH.



I GUESS SPIDER NEVER TOLD HER ABOUT HIS COSTUMED IDENTITY. IT WAS SILLY OF ME TO BREAK IN LIKE THAT. I COULD HAVE GIVEN ONE OF THOSE OLD FOGEYS A HEART ATTACK.



BUT IF HIS AUNT IS LIKE THAT--SO STRAIT-LACED--CAN MY SPIDER BE MUCH DIFFERENT?



DO I DARE TELL HIM ABOUT MY POWERS? HE'D NEVER UNDERSTAND.



BUT HE LOVES ME.

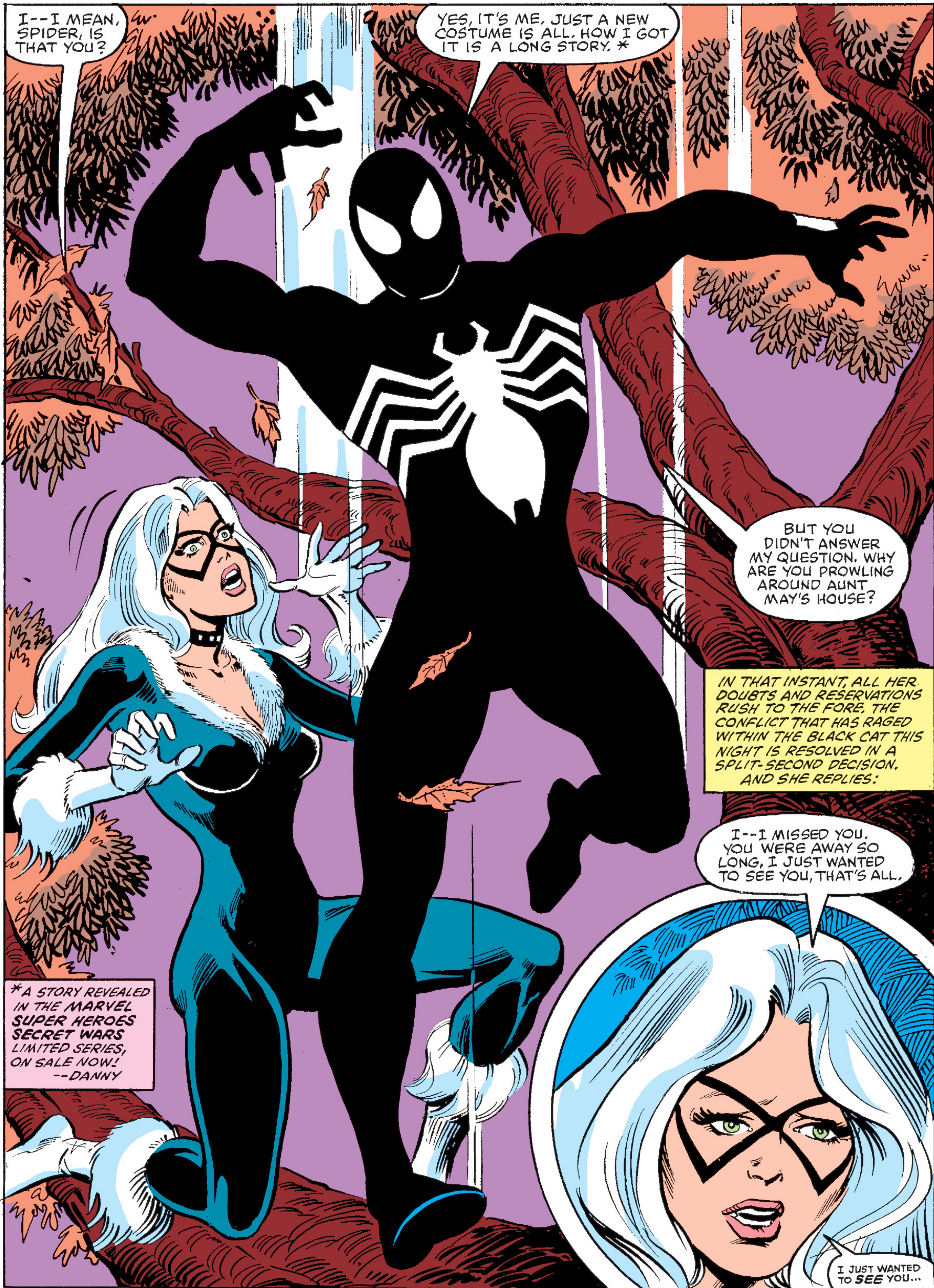


DO I TELL HIM?! YES? OR NO? YES OR NO?! YES...OR...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NO!



I--I MEAN, SPIDER, IS THAT YOU?

YES, IT'S ME, JUST A NEW COSTUME IS ALL. HOW I GOT IT IS A LONG STORY. *

BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION. WHY ARE YOU PROWLING AROUND AUNT MAY'S HOUSE?

IN THAT INSTANT, ALL HER DOUBTS AND RESERVATIONS RUSH TO THE FORE. THE CONFLICT THAT HAS RAGED WITHIN THE BLACK CAT THIS NIGHT IS RESOLVED IN A SPLIT-SECOND DECISION. AND SHE REPLIES:

I--I MISSED YOU. YOU WERE AWAY SO LONG, I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU, THAT'S ALL.

I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOU...

*A STORY REVEALED IN THE MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS LIMITED SERIES, ON SALE NOW! --DANNY

NEXT: IF IT WASN'T FOR BAD LUCK..